

# Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

September 13, 1999



**THE AIRLINE MERGER**  
Why Ottawa Likes  
the Deal

**FILM FESTIVAL SPECIAL**  
Atom Egoyan's Journey

## Sweet Seduction

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**DIANA  
KRALL**  
Beguiles the  
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From the  
**Editor**

## Will the Canadian public be heard?

Now let's get this straight: the guy who is supporting the bid by Indigo Books & Music, run by his wife, Heather Reisman, to compete with those neighbouring big-box Chapters stores is the same Gerry Schwartz who is now trying to merge Air Canada and Canadian Airlines? He is saying, in effect, one if by air, two if by book, that after it's all done, seat prices will go down and service will improve. Hmmm.

It is clear that Official Ottawa is smiling favourably on the Schwartz deal (page 18). And the man has done his homework with a masterful combination of strategy, business acumen and schmoozing. He has managed to persuade his friends in the Liberal government to act as what has been evident for some time: the country's prime sector cannot support two international airlines. Imperiously for the Liberals, Conservative Premier Ralph Klein of Alberta has agreed, giving the Once Corp. proposed wings in the west.

But in the apparent rush to wrap up the deal in the secrecy of the backrooms, some important questions are being left unanswered. Canadians will want to know what really will become of airline service, which has slipped since the

last days in the past decade when Alberta-owned Pacific Western Airlines, Westair, Canadian Pacific Air Lines and Air Canada competed for passengers. If Canadian and Air Canada merge, will anybody still fly to Goose Bay or Grande Prairie? It now costs more than \$2,000 to go from Toronto to Vancouver on regu-



Schwartz: Ottawa is smiling on him

lar economy, what will GettyAir charge? And can he really remove 5,000 positions by attrition, as he vows?

Ottawa, which seemingly couldn't do enough to prop up Canadian when it was threatened in 1996, now apparently can't wait to get the man off its hands. It has suspended the basic law that regulates competition in the country, ostensibly so the industry could work out its problems without fear of prosecution for

collusion. But the Once bid did not require the rules to be suspended. It was never an offence under the Transportation Act for someone to make a bid on another airline. In fact, by late last week Schwartz and Air Canada CEO Robert Mann had not held substantive talks.

By suspending the rules, Ottawa has also made a mockery of the neutral process for evaluating any proposed merger. Konrad von Finckenstein, the Competition Bureau director, will be allowed to make general suggestions about what the industry should look like. But he won't have any say about its specific competitive implications. Ottawa clearly wants no roadblocks in the way of a deal. The cabinet will decide how competition will be preserved. There will be no independent assessment. Canadian taxpayers will be on the outside looking in.

The least Ottawa could do is ensure von Finckenstein's power to examine the specific impact of the deal. If it is as good as Gerry Schwartz says it is, the hearing would be a very short flight.

*Robert Lewis*



"What a Wonderful World" was first performed live at 11:30 PM.

## Newsroom Notes Traumatic times

Canadians have long cherished the notion that the opening of their West was more peaceful than the experience south of the border. In his newly published book, *Indian Fall: The Last Great Days of the Plains Cree and the Blackfoot Confederacy*, Macmillan Series Writer D'Arcy Jenish challenges that



Jenish's *Apology*

assumption. The book, excerpted in this week's issue, reveals that it was a turbulent, traumatic era and a most unwelcome experience for the First Nations of the Prairies (page 58). Furthermore, it was

a time of war, epidemics, famine, an illicit whiskey trade that claimed many lives, and the loss of ancestral lands.

Jenish based *Indian Fall* largely on such sources as the journals of fur traders, missionaries and explorers, newspapers of the time and government records. As well, he visited historic sites in Saskatchewan and Alberta where many of the events described in the book took place. "White civilization arrived with all the modernity and subtlety of an invading army," says Jenish. "Yet many indigenous people displayed remarkable courage and dignity even as their world collapsed."

THE BEST  
PART OF THE  
EVENING

ORANGE  
ON ICE

Please enjoy our products responsibly.

## Politics, B.C.-style

I refer to David Mitchell's cover story about B.C. politics ("A poisonous atmosphere," Aug. 30). I find it strange that a "political historian" does not appreciate the crucial role played in a



Clark with family, defying fortune

functioning democracy by a robust and aggressive Fourth Estate. This role is never more important than when the government of the day is dishonest and incompetent. The NDP did out a tiny majority in the last election by fraudulently cheating to have balanced the provincial budget. Since then, their political fortunes have declined dramatically, a process accelerated by their spectacular mismanagement of the treasury.

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Journalists reported all of this, of course. But the whopping majority of British Columbians, like myself until two years ago, who wish to be rid of Glen Clark and his colleagues are not the dupes of a media conspiracy, nor are we parties to "this sort of assumption." We just know rotten government when we see it.

Robin Reid, London

David Mitchell's famous essay on the B.C. political scene labels the province's media as "among the most aggressive and bloody in the country." Hardly in fact, former premier Bill Vander Zalm was shown to have, at a minimum, poor judgment and an egregious conflict of interest. Mike Harcourt fell on his sword for the sake of his party. Glen Clark was unable to be either candid or truthful with the electorate. The media simply reported the facts. The survival of democracy in British Columbia, in large part, is because of, rather than in spite of, the media. Mitchell, a former Liberal and independent member of the British Columbia legislature, would do better to focus on fact-mongering rather than political commentary.

David B. Reid, Port Moody, B.C.

Responsible journalism in British Columbia is an experiment. In fact, I sometimes wonder about the media in the rest of Canada.

Trevor Prescott, Victoria

David Mitchell is right on in his depiction of the B.C. media. While as far as Glen Clark, I was shocked and disgusted by the TV coverage of an RCMP search of his home. Who wouldn't be amazed and speechless if a drug-style police raid was staged at a vegetable market? And with his wife and young children present as well. An

## Blaming the soldiers

As a former Canadian army reservist, I am appalled at our government's recent efforts to shift the focus of the criminal investigation of why medical documents were removed from soldiers' files to an alleged personal vendetta against former warrant officer Matt Stogefeld ("Agonised inquiry," Canada, Aug. 23). This is the same "cover-your-derns" mentality the military used in the Somalia inquiry, and which, confronted with suspicious deaths of Forces personnel, it seems that the department of national defence resorts to the old catch-all when all else fails, blame the soldiers. The veiled implication is that Stogefeld did something to cause his own soldiers to want to poison him. And that some of these soldiers were cowardly enough to commit this act. I was privileged to serve with then-Sgt. Matt Stogefeld in 1990-1991, when he became my regiment's training sergeant in Peterborough, Ont. Stogefeld was a tough, thorough and professional soldier who was proud of his job and his unit, the famous Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was extremely concerned about his troops' well-being, taking his own rest time in the field to coach us in tactics. His concern at one point led him to offer his own car to a soldier without. That Stogefeld was poisoned by his own people is, in my view, highly unlikely. The government owes him and all Canadian veterans who sacrificed and served in Canada an apology, a health study and an independent inquiry. They are ethically and morally responsible to provide this for the men who offered me his car eight years ago.

Wayne A. Gervais, Lethbridge City, N.W.

ordinary citizen would not have been subjected to such an intensive intrusion on his personal privacy. Which brings up the inevitable question: who tipped the media about the search, and why? Win there a link of confidential information from the RCMP? Should there perhaps be another investigation to plug the leak before another hapless public figure finds himself or herself humiliated on national TV? When a powerful, untested and irresponsible group



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# I WOULD RATHER DIE OF THIRST THAN DRINK FROM THE CUP OF MEDIOCRITY.



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The Mail

crises and controls grow closer, rather than fairly and accurately reporting what happens, all of us lose. And the first thing we lose is trust in those who are attempting to describe us.

**Marlene Jones, Winnipeg**

## And in this corner

I was amused that columnist Barbara Aniel felt she had to come to the defence of her personal, powerful banner, *Conrad Black* ("In defence of Conrad Black," Aug. 30). Calling *Macleans* Managing Editor Geoffrey Stevens a racist and Alan Fotheringham a gossip columnist was a pretty effort to support a meagre case posed on behalf of bubbly Conrad. To the rest of us commentators, Black and Jean Chrétien are not two spoiled rich kids arguing over a marble game.

**Larry Aniel, Richmond B.C.**

Given that my family has a long-standing history of being Liberal party supporters and that I have no great love for politicians for the political views of Conrad Black and Barbara Aniel, I find myself in the most charitable situation of being in agreement with her. "I'm afraid, the war is on this case in the absence of power by Jean Chrétien to punish someone for whom he apparently has a personal dislike. By using his power as Prime Minister to pursue personal vendettas, he has proven he can mix with the big boys. We expect that sort of callous behaviour from big business, but the government he heads is supposed to represent us. I, for one, don't appreciate being represented as a victim."

**Michael Jenkins, London, Ont.**

**Mathiasa Madonna Black** accuses me. I've concluded that Geoffrey Stevens was in no way unkind in his popular assessment ("Pro, has anyone seen his penance?" from the Managing Editor, Aug. 16). People with such thin skins should not delve into politics, penance or even public platforms. Barbara Aniel was also unfair to Alan Fotheringham. She should realize that

he is the main reason why most of us read *Macleans* from back to front, not always making it through to her column.

**Nelson Green, Cambridge Alta**

**Barbara Aniel** is articulate and undeniably intelligent, but she comes right to the defence of her powerful husband like carrying coals to Newcastle. It was embarrassing to read. And I, too, feel that I am, though that with intelligence and penning went good sense.

**James Buchanan, Fort St. John**

After reading Barbara Aniel's column, I can tell her the only, Geoffrey Stevens' only crime was thinking anyone really cares about Conrad's wife. Is that over Aniel's head?

**Aerin Kasperian, Toronto**

I very much enjoyed Anthony Wilson-Smith's column "The Liberal's Black knights" (*Black knights*, Aug. 23). Conrad Black may be black to some and disliked by others, but he should be treated fairly by this country. Christen represents all of us as Prime Minister and his actions against Black were petty and unwarranted.

**Tim Little, Vancouver, B.C.**

Alan Fotheringham's column "The words of Christen Black" (Aug. 23) left me rather bemused. Canadians have the right to dual citizenship. I hold two passports and my allegiance is neither dead. I am a citizen of Canada and a Portuguese native. What I really don't understand is the big fish being made about Black's rights—or lack thereof—to acquire a citizenship of a country of which he is also a citizen. If the British government chooses to honour him by bestowing a lordship on him, who are we to argue? Who does it harm?

**Alexandra Mendes, Brampton, Que.**

## Refugee policy

Maybe I'm out of date, but when I was growing up, refugees were not people who paid a criminal's large sum of money or people who deliberately destroyed all

record of who they actually were ("Canada's open door," *Cover*, Aug. 23). Nor did the refugees attempt to sneak into our country. Sneak out of them, certainly, but not into ours.

**HL E. Long Collins**, Carroll River, B.C.

I can understand why these people would want to come to Canada, as I am an immigrant myself, from Britain. No one can doubt that they are desperate people who feel that they have no options available to them. However, my sympathy inclines them. While Canada is proud of its humanitarian standards and feels unable to deny these people access to the country, it is effectively making two sets of standards for people wishing to immigrate here. When my son and I moved to Canada back in 1995, we came legitimately as the dependents of my husband, a Canadian soldier. Despite that fact, the immigra-

tion process took almost two years and cost us approximately \$2,000. In addition, I was legally unable to work, and we had expenses such as medical costs for which we were personally responsible. I ask for no special treatment. Yet when I see this government allowing people to come into this country, however sad their situations, in such a comparatively easy manner, it is galling to say the least.

**Joanne Gubrowski**, CFB Petawawa, Ont.

As an immigration lawyer from the United States vacationing in Tignes this summer, I found your cover story particularly interesting. Partly in response to a similar occurrence several years ago, the U.S. government implemented a policy of detention of asylum-seekers. But our experience in the States has clearly shown that such a policy of detaining those who seek pro-

tection is foolish, costly and defiant the purpose of a humane immigration policy. From a purely practical point of view, if asylum-seekers were free to work, they would be paying more rather than costing money. There is, however, another aspect that is most difficult to measure: That is the toll on our vision as a nation. Something happens to a country when it begins to detain those seeking freedom. There is no question that there must be a way to address those smuggling rings, but detention of those seeking protection is not the way.

**Joey Antle Phillips**, 41 Centre  
Highway/Highway 101, Port Huron, Mich.

Congratulations to the Canadian immigration department. They have just opened the doors to a flood of pseudo-refugees who will inundate our coasts for years to come, putting a heavy burden on unwilling and already overtaxed Canadian taxpayers. Legitimate immigrants are welcome, but why ruin it for them by letting in hordes of goose-jumpers? These ships

can and should be intercepted and turned back before they enter Canadian waters. Refusing to let them into Canadian waters, and if they manage to sneak past, refusing to let them land, will show other countries where we stand on illegal entry and human smuggling.

**Walter Kuchalski**, Windsor

As a former colleague of William Rezer on the Immigration and Refugee Board, I fully support his conclusion in the cover story that it is "A time for tough measures." He did not, however, explain (except to say "patience"), some key reasons for the appalling record of the tribunal. While claims are rejected by counsel, there is almost never an adversarial balance in the hearings. And far too many appointments have been made of people who are predisposed to accept claimants' stories at face value or have a vested interest in having refugee claims accepted. Claims that are denied have to be supported by written decisions that must stand challenge in the Federal Court.

many members are incapable of such a task, and others are too busy to make the attempt. Two governments of different stripes have proved incapable of making appropriate appointments to the board. Abolish it and give the job to trained professionals.

**Phyllis E. Hanson**, Toronto

Hearse of praise to you, *Michael*, for illuminating and raising and tracing Canadian spirit with regard to the contentious issue concerning the handful of Chinese boat people to land on our shores. I especially liked Irving Abella's take on the situation as he points out how the bitterness and fear that some of the population feels are unjustified ("Let's get a grip"). Canadian fears are being fuelled by sensational media coverage and are being perpetuated by their own sorry ignorance.

**Vincent Beck**, Burnaby, B.C.

## Raging debate

As a Canadian academic living in the United States (supposedly part of the brain drain), I moved to the States simply because there was an appropriate job offer ("What's right—and wrong—with Canada," *Special Report*, Aug. 18). As a result of fiscal conservatism in Canada, the money available to post-secondary institutions for both operating grants and research is severely limiting. *Canada's* ability to conduct research and compete globally (Sadly, Canada spends 1.65 per cent of GDP on research and development, compared with 2.55 per cent in the United States and 2.98 per cent in Japan.) My take-home pay in the United States may be higher than it would have been in Canada, however, I have had to pay out of pocket for many services that are included in the Canadian salary net

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## The Mail

(such as universal medical coverage, lower university/college tuition, unemployment services). And lower taxes in the United States result in a level of anxiety that is non-existent in Canada. We live with the fear that our health coverage may not be adequate under all circumstances, that our coverage may be cancelled at any time and that our premiums may be increased at any time. Canadians know what kind of country they want. It is true that some in the media and in industry resist this and accept the will of the majority.

**Parvati Desai, Grano, Mo**

Canada is in some ways one of the best places to live, and I am not unhappy with the level of caution I face, considering the benefits. I think we have one of the best health-care systems available. But I now find myself strongly considering moving to the United States. Brain drain? You bet. For higher pay? Uh-huh. For lower taxes? No way. I am considering moving because, despite Canada's enviable position as having a relatively just and accepting legal foundation, we still have many problems. Legally, we have been making great strides in guaranteeing the rights of all Canadians. Unfortunately, the typical social attitude here, especially in Alberta, is far less advanced than what can be found in some areas of the States and especially in Western European countries. It is easy for us to blame the brain drain on things we cannot personally control. It is far less easy to admit we are part (if not most) of the problem. So San Francisco was right now. Especially when it comes to living in a gay men.

**Debra Wilson, Edmonton**

## 'Neutered pussycat'

As a retired herald painter, I find it quaint and odd, but typically Canadian of Gov. Gen. Roméo LeBlanc to decline the once-prized heraldic lion ("A rug and a rack for a winged lion," Canada News, Aug. 30). The heraldic lion displayed their claws to symbolize the courage and determination of the bearer of the arms. As the Queen's representative in Canada,

our Governor General has apparently hesitated to correct any false impression the world might gain from the old symbol that Canada is a nation would upset anyone. Apparently we must not give the impression that we would ever draw a line in the sand and say to another nation or individual: "That's as far as you go, now back off!" The removal of these bright red claws is perhaps symbolic of the way we as a nation treat our armed forces. Now, instead of a subtle symbol of national pride, we have a neutered pussycat whose mouth is permanently clamped shut for fear it might say something that could offend a fiery foreign dictator.

**Frank Weil-Rath, Dundas, B.C.**

## Postpartum care

A Scarborough hospital study concludes that the decline in the length of hospital stays after giving birth "may be harmful to babies' health" ("Haste too soon," Health Monitor, Aug. 25). The implicit conclusion to increase the length of hospital stays is not the solution. New mothers do not need to be kept away from the comfort of their home and the support of their families just so they can consult with an on-call nurse at specific times during their stay. What they do need is more consistent and comprehensive access to postpartum support the first few weeks after birth to avoid common problems in newborns such as dehydration and jaundice. Women who choose to give birth with midwives, either at home or in the hospital, have 24-hour pager access to one of their two midwives for six weeks postpartum. A midwife visits the mother in her home on the first, third, fifth and sixth days after birth, when she not only checks the health of the baby, and that breastfeeding is proceeding successfully, but also examines the mother to ensure she is recovering well. With the birth of my second child in November, I hope I can return home from the hospital within hours after the birth. Some of the strenuous and longer hospital stays for high-risk pregnancies and births with complications.

**Claudia Moravcs, Toronto**

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# Notes

Edited by Tanya Daxos

## Bidding adieu to Beanie Babies

The name of one of the new Beanie Babies announced on the manufacturer's Internet site last week should have been a hint: a black bear called The End. Ty Inc., makers of the much-loved toy of the 1990s, stated on their Website that the beaniebag characters will be retired at 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31. The Chicago-based company posted the announcement on Aug. 31, causing chaos on Beanie Babies chat rooms and collectors' Web sites. The next day, the notice was taken off the site, leading some industry experts to speculate that Ty was probably going to ink over the toy, making slight changes to them.

Introduced in 1993, the pain-stuffed animals were made for children, but adults quickly got into the action and a buying boom was on. The manufacturer created more than 100 characters—including Chilly the White Polar Bear, Humphrey the Camel and the Canadian model, Maple Bear. And certain discontinued models have become collector's items. On thousands of Internet sites, Beanie Babies can be bought for prices ranging from below \$10 (the original price) to \$7,500 for Phoebe, a blue elephant discontinued in 1995.

Anne Nickels, a Ty spokeswoman, declined to say why the company made the decision to halt production. Since the an-



Ashley (top) and Jessica Clerke (bottom) in Beanie Babies collectors' areas

nouncement, sales have already increased at Canadian retailers that carry the fancied-up beaniebags. "People come in asking about the big news and they are buying more," says Joe Fruchman, co-owner of KCB Fashionable Accessories in Vancouver. "I personally think it is an amazing marketing ploy and they have something up their sleeves." Still, Fruchman is preparing for Jan. 1, 2000. "We going to buy as many as I can, keep them in the back-room, and keep on selling them." Much to Beanie Babies buyers' ears.



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► Of all fifteen SUV's subjected to the same test, none scored higher than the M-Class. It earned a coveted "Best Pick" commendation, the Institute's highest overall rating.

► The M-Class was singled out for how well the passenger compartment was preserved, with little or no intrusion. And its side sills and Emergency Trussing Brackets, which remove front seat-belt slack, were praised as added benefits.

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## Best-Sellers

### Fiction

POSITION	LAST WEEK
1. <b>HEAVY METAL</b> , Jeffery Deaver (2)	4
2. <b>BLACK ICE</b> , J. Michael Hayes (5)	1
3. <b>POISON</b> , Dorothy Dunnett (2)	2
4. <b>MAKING IT</b> , Robert Bly (previous list)	3
5. <b>THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY</b> , Bruce Schermer (2)	2
6. <b>WALLS</b> , Douglas Kenney (2)	4
7. <b>WALLS OF PAIN</b> , Andrew Kaplan (2)	6
8. <b>COAL</b> , Stephen Crane (2)	3
9. <b>THE WHITE SILENCE</b> , David R. Hummel (2)	10
10. <b>THE WHITE SILENCE</b> , David R. Hummel (2)	10

### Nonfiction

POSITION	LAST WEEK
1. <b>THE PHOTOGRAPH AND THE MARGINAL</b> , David Shields (2)	2
2. <b>THE CIVIL WAR AND THE CIVIL WAR</b> , John Brown (2)	1
3. <b>THE CIVIL WAR</b> , John Brown (2)	2
4. <b>THE CIVIL WAR</b> , John Brown (2)	2
5. <b>THE CIVIL WAR</b> , John Brown (2)	2
6. <b>THE CIVIL WAR</b> , John Brown (2)	2
7. <b>THE CIVIL WAR</b> , John Brown (2)	2
8. <b>THE CIVIL WAR</b> , John Brown (2)	2
9. <b>THE CIVIL WAR</b> , John Brown (2)	2
10. <b>THE CIVIL WAR</b> , John Brown (2)	2

## Cosmic pictures

Devotees of astronomy and photography will enjoy *A Photographic Year of the Universe* (Firefly Books) by Gabriele Varrin, president of Italy's Astronomy Union. With more than 250 colour pictures from NASA and the European Space Agency, the book pays homage to recent advances in photographic and space technologies. Each photo—such as those the Mars Pathfinder probe took of the red planet in 1997—is accompanied by a description of the techniques and equipment used to obtain the images.



## Double Take

## John Savage

**Former Nova Scotia premier** John Savage has returned to his roots. A physician, Savage, who ran the province from 1993 to 1997, is back practicing medicine—at a free clinic in Niger in south Africa. As mayor of Dartmouth, N.S., from 1985 through 1992, Savage was known as a social activist: he taught sex education in the local school system and set up a medical clinic in the predominantly black community of North Preston. He became the leader of the provincial Liberals in 1992, with a platform that reflected his humanitarian interests. Savage promoted a political “sea change” by forging traditional neoconservative to create jobs, instead focusing on nurturing smaller, community-based businesses. In 1993, he was swept into power when the Liberals won 40 of 52 seats. But he had a tougher time delivering on another campaign pledge—ending the patronage that has long been a factor of political life in Nova Scotia. This move alienated rural Liberals, who had been anchored from government jobs and contracts during the 15-year Taylors. When the party's popularity slumped in the public opinion polls four years later, Savage resigned. “I still believe our government did the right thing,” says Savage, now 67, and social-policy adviser to Transcan



Savage at home in Dartmouth, activist

Resources Inc., a Dartmouth-based mining concern trying to develop a gold mine in rural Niger. “And I don’t really care what people think.”

The son of a doctor, Savage was born and raised in Newport. After earning his medical degree, he immigrated to Canada in 1966 and set up practice in Dartmouth. Since retiring from politics, Savage has been using his medical training in Niger, overseeing a health clinic that Transcan built in the village of Taoul. In October, he will return to Niger with 4,000 to 8,000 doses of meningitis vaccine, donated by Canadian pharmaceutical companies. “Transcan should get all the credit,” says Savage, who lives in Dartmouth with his wife, Margaret, and visits Niger every few months. “But I’m happy to try and have a positive impact on these people’s lives.”

John DeMott

## National athletic pride

The majority of 1,400 Canadians agreed that their national pride tends to increase when Canadian athletes beat Americans in international competition. And that under 25 and over 65 were most passionate, with half of the respondents strongly agreeing to the statement. By percentage of adults.

	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Agree strongly	49	42	37	40	50
Agree somewhat	37	35	31	35	34
Strongly disagree	24	22	32	19	15
NE Response	0	1	1	1	1

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## Passages

**Sentenced:** Former B.C. finance minister Dave Sautch, 77, to two years less a day for fraud and running an illegal lottery, involving the misappropriation of an estimated \$1 million from the Nationsmen Holding Society between 1976 and 1994, by the B.C.



Supreme Court, in Vancouver. Sautch, who is suffering from dementia, will be allowed to serve his sentence at home. The scandal, dubbed Bingeagate by the media, played a key role in ousting down Mike Harcourt NDP government. A special prosecutor last week cleared Harcourt of any wrongdoing.

**Died:** Archivist W. Kaye Lamb, 95, in Vancouver. Lamb took over responsibility for the archives in the National Library in 1948, and five years later was appointed the first national librarian.

**Died:** Montreal's first celebrant, George Mahby, 84, in Winnipeg. Then-Premier Ed Schreyer appointed Mahby, chief of the old James-Arthur police department, as the position in 1970.

**Appointed:** Former centre Mario Lemieux, a takeover of the out-of-control Pittsburgh Penguins, by the NHL's board of governors in New York City and a bankruptcy court in Pittsburgh.

**Appointed:** Northwest Territories premier Nick Siikonen, 55, former Whitecourt mayor Iain Christensen, 65, and political organizer Bob Fitzpatrick, 69, of Terrace, Ont., as Liberal senators in Ottawa.

**Appointed:** Montreal businessman Pierre Boivin, 41, as president of the Montreal Canadiens.

**Retired:** All-star tight-winger Dino Ciccarelli, 39, after playing 19 years in the NHL, in Toronto.

## Explorer

## Bank on the go

The introduction of ATMs in the early 1980s gave people the option of by-passing lines and retrieved loans common to many bank branches. Now, Toronto-based 724 Software Inc. has developed a software package that will allow people to conduct wireless transactions—except for cash withdrawals—anywhere, anytime, using their cell phones or personal electronic organizers such as a Palm Pilot. The Bank of Montreal has just finished testing the software and plans to introduce it to the public later this year. By calling a 1-800 number and entering a personal identification code, consumers will be able to use the dial pad and built-in display screen on a cell phone to review their accounts, transfer money, pay bills and buy or sell stocks. Just dial it all while driving.



to store 100 printed pages. The saved pages can be viewed and edited either on a display screen built into the pen, or transferred to a personal computer using infrared signals. C Technologies AB, the Swedish company formed to produce the device, introduced a \$600 model in North America in March. But last week, just in time for the new school year, the company began selling a \$300 pen for students.

## A highlighter for the millennium

It is a familiar sight in any university or college library: students underlining passages in textbooks with bright yellow highlighters as they scan for extra or research term papers. It was this activity that inspired Swedish inventor Christer Fjellman to develop a digital alternative to the highlighters, the C-Pen, short for “the pen that sees.” The hand-held device, slightly larger than a standard marker, contains a tiny camera capable of capturing 190 characters per second when dragged across a page. A software program located on the pen converts the images to text and has enough memory



## You have mail

**Want to join the millions of Canadians** saying hi to each other and family through e-mail, but don't care to buy a computer? A number of consumer electronics companies are designing machines that can be used exclusively for sending and receiving e-mail. The devices consist of a keyboard and display screen, and are plugged into a standard phone jack. At least one company, Vtech Industries, a Hong Kong-based manufacturer of cordless phones, plans to introduce its product to the Canadian retail market this fall. Vtech has a desk-top model, the e-Mail Reader, which can accommodate up to five users and will sell for just under \$750, and the portable



Maclean's proudly presents the fall edition of the King's Health Digest's *Health Digest* written by Canada's leading medical professionals. This special issue will appear in Maclean's Sept. 28, 1998 issue and will contain several interesting features including:

- **The Effects of Environmental Contamination:** Emerging evidence shows pollutants are contributing to an astronomical increase in childhood asthma and that characterizing harmful air may be responsible for conditions such as cancer, genital deformities and lowered IQs.
- **Coping with Chronic Pain:** Exploring the often devastating effects of chronic pain and what can be done about it.
- **Teen Pregnancy:** Half of all sexually active teens have mistaken ideas about birth control and sexually transmitted disease. Good sex education is the best way to prevent unplanned pregnancy.

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## Opening Notes

e-Mail Express, which will retail for \$115 (Vtech will charge a monthly fee of approximately \$120). Users type their message, hit the send button and the device automatically dials a number connecting to the Vtech Web site, which serves as an electronic clearinghouse. As easy as programming a VCR.

## Policing the Web

The Internet all began 30 years ago, on Sept. 2, 1969, to be precise, in a computer laboratory at the University of California, Los Angeles. A small group of scientists and technicians, working on a U.S. defence department project, managed to transfer a small amount of information through a cable link from one large mainframe computer to another five metres away. That successful test led to the establishment of networks of computers that could communicate with each other, and eventually to the development of the Internet—currently used by an estimated 100 million people worldwide. But the proliferation of Internet users has created a daunting problem: how best to control Web sites devoted to explicit sex, hatred or violence.

In response to growing public and political pressures, some 300 executives, government officials, legal experts and consumer representatives from North America and Europe are attending an Internet Content Summit in Munich this week to discuss, among other topics, methods of filtering objectionable material. The recently formed global Internet Content Rating Association, which includes industry giants such as Microsoft, IBM and America Online, suggests developing Web site ratings similar to those used to grade movies. Going into the conference, most of the delegates were advocating voluntary regulations, administered by the Internet and computer industry rather than governments.

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## Gerry Schwartz has the right stuff

**When it comes to airlines,** I've always preferred the more down-home attitude of Canadian Airlines (and its predecessors, Canadian Pacific Air Lines and Westair), so no larger, impersonal and all-too-often anonymous rival. Call it overreaction, but if God had meant us to fly, he would never have invented Air Canada.

Now, there's a good chance that we'll be flying Schwartz Air, and I for one am delighted. Of Canada's mega-entrepreneurs, the 57-year-old Onex Corp. founder and CEO shares the conviction, the cash and most of all, the胆量 to go it alone with a national airline worthy of its name.

Typical of Schwartz's manoeuvres, he had to grab control of the country's two main air carriers against more daring than it really is. His strategy is grounded in a realistic assessment of an essential industry's grim future: the airship isn't shelled. Huge as it is, the \$1.8-billion airline offer is easily feasible. In the first six months of 1999, Onex earnings have jumped 123 per cent. Schwartz is unique among private-sector investors because Onex Corp. is currently producing \$1 billion per month in revenues with plenty left over for new ventures.

His胆量 flows from the self-confidence nurtured by his unprecedented success in turning himself from a shark in the leveraged buyout days of the frenzied 1980s into a 1990s corporate sensation. He commands virtually unlimited credit, both political and financial, though too much a taste of Schwartz's political connections. Sure, he's been a liberal bugbear, but his personal support has always gone to Jean Charest's side—Erin, John, Karen and little old Martin. What has propelled all this respect is Onex's role in a political revival that the solution is an airtight airline dilemma.

The Onex gambit is a natural, even essential response that would affect the jobs of 5,000 airline workers, but the alternative—waiting out the death watch for Canadian Airlines—would be much worse. Since American Airlines' parent company, AMR Corp., which is paying up more than 60 per cent of the cash for less than 15 per cent of the equity, intends to phase out its ownership, the deal also represents the best option for ending up with a domestically-owned national airline.

Ever driven, Schwartz is determined to sew up the Air Canada deal, partly because it will make up for his one great failure, in 1979 to buy out John Labatt Ltd., which included the Toronto Blue Jays. His \$24-per-share offer (worth \$940 million) was topped by \$4.50 from Belgium's Inbevco SA. He is not likely to make the same mistake, especially since the market quickly outbid his final

\$8.25 per share Air Canada bid. Unlike most of his peers, Schwartz is a small-town, small-town character. What obsesses him is the money—his speech-recognition desktop computer, proof of his ability to master new technology. "You've got to respect the company that's going through," he told me. "I understand we're going through a series of incremental changes that are living through the Industrial Revolution without recognizing its impact." What we have now is even more incremental shifts of influence and authority in ways we've never dreamed of, disorienting whole groups of serious business people, while confounding the very young with enormous wealth and power.

**Schwartz's bedside reading** includes *The Age of Spiritual Machines* by Ray Kurzweil, which predicts this by 2020 computers will possess the intellectual scope of the human brain. "At that point," Schwartz says, "competition will not only make computers, but they will be independently mobile and possess emotions connected to the main push in people's brains. They'll have their own responses, saying things like, 'Don't drive me off, I'm really lovely tonight.'"

Note of this inspiring detour from Schwartz's concentration on the business at hand. His Onex judgement has grown from a standing start about a decade ago in cash 15th in revenues in this year's *Forbes* Top 500 listings—just ahead of IBM Canada. Schwartz's own significant recent purchase has been Celestica Inc., an electronics parts manufacturer, which he turned from a sleepy IBM subsidiary into a global money machine. He acquired it central for only \$150 million in 1996; the Toronto-based company, which now has branches in the Czech Republic, Brazil and Malaysia is already the third largest in its field.

If anyone knows about lightning corporate growth, it's Jimmy Persson, the remarkable Vancouver option, whose hedge-fund deals have pushed his personal worth to \$2.2 billion. Some 14 months ago, Schwartz trumped Persson in a bid for the lucrative B.C. Super Holdings, in Jimmy's own backyard. When the Onex CEO walked away with the prize, Persson called him to pay a state, private compliment. "Gerry," Jimmy predicted, "before you're through, you're going to be the biggest businessman in this country."

That will depend on whether God means us to fly Schwartz Air.

**\$8.25 per share Air Canada bid.** Unlike most of his peers, Schwartz is a small-town, small-town character. What obsesses him is the money—his speech-recognition desktop computer, proof of his ability to master new technology. "You've got to respect the company that's going through," he told me. "I understand we're going through a series of incremental changes that are living through the Industrial Revolution without recognizing its impact." What we have now is even more incremental shifts of influence and authority in ways we've never dreamed of, disorienting whole groups of serious business people, while confounding the very young with enormous wealth and power.

# Capital Solution



## The Onex offer to buy and merge Air Canada with Canadian Airlines has lessened Ottawa's headaches

By Bruce Wallace

As someone known to hold a grudge, Jean Chretien would not normally be expected to look kindly upon anything Gerry Schwartz does. After all, only 10 years have elapsed since the Toronto-based financier and Liberal party fund-raiser got his elbows up on Chretien in the party back-rooms. In the summer of 1993, with John Turner stepping down as Liberal leader, the party's national executive met in Ottawa to determine the date for a leadership convention. Chretien, the front-runner, wanted a convention as quickly as possible. Paul Martin, his main challenger, needed a longer campaign to try to catch him.

In those days, Schwartz was a member of the party's national executive, "but like all the other big-money guys who didn't want to mix with the rubes from the regions, he never came to our meetings," remembers one former executive member with a laugh. He was, however, a Martin supporter. And it wasn't long on Chretien's that on one occasion, Schwartz made a point of flying into Ottawa on a private plane to make the meeting. Liberals still recall a rednecks Schwartz standing at the back of the room, waiting impatiently to cast his vote for a later convention before bolting for his place. Martin won

his repress for a longer campaign. By a margin of one.

Six years in power have still not eased all the hurt from that leadership race, but Chretien has finally found a reason to be thankful for Gerry Schwartz. With an audacious \$1.8-billion proposal to have his Toronto-based Onex Corp. buy Canadian Airlines International Ltd. and Air Canada and merge them into a single carrier, Schwartz handed Chretien's Liberal government an escape from the nasty political consequences of Canadian Airlines collapsing into bankruptcy. The Onex offer, with its careful attention to the politically sensitive issues of job losses and regional pride, made it possible for Ottawa to act, at last, that Canadians might have to settle for a single domestic national airline. Schwartz may not get his airline in the end—Air Canada finally pulled from its shack last week to begin meeting the merger proposal, which Onex had prepared in conjunction with Canadian. But the era of the so-called two-airline policy appears over. "This two national airline policy was wrong," Schwartz

On the ground in Calgary, Schwartz (left) doing the Liberals a favour

told *Maclean's*. "It got to come to an end, and I give Mr. Chretien's government enormous credit for owning up to the fact that they were wrong."

The Liberal government has not yet pronounced its opinion on the Onex offer. Transport Minister David Colborne preferring to stay in the tall grass until an anticipated bidding war for the airlines is fully played out. But the Onex deal came to attention from Bay Street just when Colborne saw nothing ahead but grim options: Canadian either died, or its hand was reached for more federal cash. "I have never been subjected to anything close to the pressure put on you when Canadian Airlines got into trouble," says one former Liberal cabinet minister. "Everything got thrown at you: regional politics, French versus English, Calgary versus Montreal, the Canadian Way, unions, mayors, provincial governments. It's an enormously aggressive and very, very broad coalition that comes out."

That is exactly the kind of political noise the Liberals will do anything to avoid. Last June, with MHA's asking to get out of Ottawa for summer recess, Chretien was ready to keep Parliament sitting in case air-traffic controllers made good on their threat to call a national strike. The Liberals planned to legislate the controllers back immediately, on grounds that the cash crunch at Canadian was so severe the airline could not survive any interruption of business.

So Ottawa was relieved to see a proposal that tried to marry a seemingly good business plan with political realism. Schwartz arrived to be overwhelmed. He said his deal would save some jobs in the west, and keep the now airline's head office in Montreal. He promised this cost savings from ending duplication in flights would be evident in affordable airfares and that competition on regional routes would keep prices down. Even cranny union boss Buzz Hargrove, whose Canadian Auto Workers union represents about 10,000 airline employees, could not muster a blast "no" to Gerry. "I was impressed; he had a well-thought-out plan," Hargrove told *Maclean's* after a 90-minute meeting with Schwartz in Toronto last week. "He had really thought through the whole idea of how you do a Canadian airline with the commitment to Canadian jobs and investment" (The machinists' union was more hostile, threatening to strike on Sept. 27 unless airline jobs were guaranteed).

If Hargrove seemed caught off balance by Schwartz's smooth pitch, it was nothing compared with the confusion in Air Canada executive suites. There seems little doubt the



## Whether Schwartz succeeds or fails, the era of the 'two national airline policy' is over

company was surprised by the Osear offer. There is no doubt they were furious about it. Some Air Canada employees reacted angrily to those Ottawa politicians, bureaucrats and lobbyists who seemed to be calling them up to express condolences about the airline's fate, as if its failure had already been sealed. In fact, the prevailing attitude in Ottawa towards Air Canada was more one of disdain for its failure to come up with any strategy other than loitering until Canadian surrender. "They were asleep, totally blindsided," said one lobbyist with strong connections to Air Canada.

But the breakfast office becoming the prey of the one on file support was too much for Air Canada, already carrying a substantial chip on its shoulder. Air Canada executives complain that despite being privatized 11 years ago, the airline is still regarded sympathetically by many Canadians as the "government airline." (Some MPs still get occasional complaints about Air Canada service from their constituents.) And they contend Ottawa is forever propping up Canadian

favouritism with better international gateways (Tokyo to Air Canada's Osaka, for example), chattering Canadian for its Team Canada trade missions, and placing the federal Liberal party travel account with them.

But Air Canada slowly recovered its footing and began to fight back last week. The company issued a can "No thanks" to Schwartz, then unveiled a poison pill defence that would delay any shareholder vote on the offer until Jan. 7, 2008. Osear, which wants its proposal to go to Air Canada shareholders by Nov. 1, immediately filed an application in Ontario Superior Court to crush the move. But almost all observers were convinced that Osear would have to sweeten its offer at some point, and Air Canada's stock market price reflected that. It finished the week at \$9.40, well above Osear's offer of \$8.25. Though he has insisted his time is final, Schwartz seemed to acknowledge to *Maclean's* there might be room to maneuver.

Gellens (right) with Industry Minister John Manley greet agencies before the offer

"Maybe there is an argument on price is too low, or that there's a shift of wealth from their shareholders to ours," he said. "OK. Those are discussable things." Schwartz preferred to keep on what he sees as the essential



Canadian jet, Vancouver, Air Canada flight back

flow in Air Canada's was all the other guy expects strange he insists Ottawa will never in Canadian fail. But it was hard to find much widespread support for pumping in public money. Perhaps by labor leader instinct, Hargrove tried peddling the suggestion that Ottawa take an equity stake in Canadian to keep it flying. So did Judy Darcy, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, which represents 7,500 flight attendants. "Maybe the government should consider an equity role," she said. "It means they could play an influential role in what happens with service to Canadians." But neither union leader sounded as if they believed it would happen, or knew who might take up their cause.

The Liberals insisted like they would not even debate it. "My constituents have no appetite to see a quarter of a billion dollars or more get pumped into an airline that doesn't have the wherewithal to make it work," said Hamilton Liberal MP Sam Kiley, a member of the Commons' transport committee. Caucus concerns are more likely to focus on ensuring there are regulatory restraints on any single carrier. Final approval of any deal rests with cabinet, and government sources say they will be insisting on guarantees of fair pricing, reasonable service to remote areas, and fair treatment of employees.

But a politically co-operative tone has already been established by Schwartz's proposal, something say Air Canada executives will almost surely have to touch. "Gerry's genius was in offering to create a single airline that took account of the political imperatives," said one observer who has worked both in Ottawa and on Bay Street. "Now, nobody needs Gerry. The quarrels in running the two airlines are there for anyone. Nothing prevents Air Canada from making the same politically wise offer, but with more money." All Air Canada has to do, in other words, is find its own Gerry Schwartz.

Web Patricia Chisholm and Kimberley Noble

he can receive a fax at midnight, can e-mail a reply before anyone arrives at the office, manages to look buttoned-up and he's still in his bathrobe.

who is he sleeping with?



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# Bringing back 'The Gaelic'

By John DeMott

Entering the Cape Breton village of Mabou—4½ hours northwest of Halifax in a fast car—it is hard to believe this is North America on the edge of a new millennium. There is a captured-in-time quality to the white church steeple, the quaint wooden houses and the stretch of calm, curving harbour. At noon in the Red Shoe Pub, someone is already at the piano pounding out a Scottish strathspey, a rhythmic, evocative dance tune just like the ones brought to the area 500 years ago by the original emigrants from the Highland Clans. When an old-timer wearing overalls enters, nods at Leslie McDunnell, the manager, and mutters "Glenora a dhèid"—Gaelic



## Once close to extinction, the ancient tongue is on its way to a comeback in Cape Breton

for "how are you?"—no one bats an eye.

In Mabou, the ancient tongue is called "The Gaelic." It is spoken straight back to the Celts, a warlike people who, for 1,000 years before the birth of Christ, held sway over Europe from modern-day Ireland to Turkey. Today the only remaining area outside of Europe where Celtic languages have been spoken for unbroken generations are the Pampisiri region of Argentina, where descendants of Welsh immigrants still speak their old tongue, and Cape Breton Island, where residents continue to use a blend of pure Scottish Gaelic that traces its origin back to the original Highland settlers.

No wonder, then, that almost bells went off in the 1980s with the realization that the 75,000 Cape Bretoners who claimed Gaelic as their first language at the turn of the century had shrunk to fewer than 1,000. It helps explain why a recent census of interest in the language is such a welcome bar-

ometer for an island where rum and tradition matter. "If the Gaelic goes, it is like a people dying," asserts Frances MacEischen, the managing editor of *An Bhean*, the island's Gaelic cultural newspaper, which she runs from her home on the outskirts of Mabou. "You are not just losing a language. You are losing a piece of your identity."

In Mabou, at least, the incalculable rumour is still very much alive. Here, nation and CD players pound out the Gaelic-tinged lyrics of the Juno Award-winning Rankin Family—Mabou's most famous clan—or the haunting old-world songs of Ontario-born songstress Mary Jane Lamont, who lives nearby. On summer evenings tourists and locals raise the roof at church hall events, Cape Breton hovers, where they can hear the words and music flourish. Each weekend, they crowd the Red Shoe Pub to join Gaelic song sessions and to hear the old-time singers engage in "pìoging,"



Owner Ron Wilson and McDaniel (above) at the Red Shoe Pub (right) evening performance tonight; almost bells went off here 1980s

perhaps best-described as Gaelic scat. Mabou Consolidated School offers the only Gaelic high-school class in North America. (The University College of Cape Breton in Sydney, a two-hour drive north of Mabou, has a full-fledged Gaelic faculty.) A handful of local families even try to get by speaking only Gaelic at home. "It is a wonderful thing to see all this interest," declares Marlene MacKenzie, a Gaelic teacher at Mabou Consolidated who speaks the language as much as possible with her husband, Ronald, and their two sons, Kenneth and Colman. (Their two oldest children, Angus and Sine, are already fluent; Angus attended college for two

years in Scotland, where Sine is currently studying.)

This is a far cry from the old days in Cape Breton when speaking Gaelic was viewed as a sign of backwardness—and teachers turned harshly on any student who dared utter a few words in the classroom. What happened? For one thing, the same widespread interest in genealogy that swept the English-speaking world after Alex Haley's book *Roots* was published in 1976. At the

same time, the realization that a distinctive Gaelic culture was in danger of extinction acted as a call to arms on Cape Breton's west side, where place names like Glenora, Strathmore and Dunvegan underscore the area's Scottish roots.

Passion, community elders and teachers came together to keep the culture alive. It helped that the MacIsacs, Lamont and fiddling sensation Noelle MacIsaac and her dark alter ego,

punk-Gaelic fiddler Aubrey MacIsaac, became stars, making the culture undeniably "cool" for a younger generation of Cape Bretoners. But there are other reasons for its revival as well. "I just like to be able to talk to the old people in the community," says 18-year-old Lenora Bertram, who studied Gaelic at Mabou Consolidated and is planning to continue the subject at Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish this month.

No one in Mabou is saying the language's precarious slide towards oblivion has been halted forever. But the Gaelic flag does seem to be spreading. The Nova Scotia department of education plans to introduce a Gaelic studies pilot course in some Cape Breton and mainland high schools this month. And more than half of *An Bhean*'s 2,500 subscribers now live outside of Nova Scotia. "It is a language that has a deep connection with people—whether they grew up hearing it or not," asserts MacEischen. "So that, the language's growing base of converts would only add 'Tòig do Dhùs' 'Which, in the old tongue, means 'Thank God'." ■

## Scottish revival?

In Gaelic on an upswing? There are signs that it is, although the revival is still in its infancy. The new Scottish Parliament has appointed a special cabinet minister for Gaelic. But prospects were disappointed that a bill to establish the official status of the old tongue, as the Welsh won in 1993, was not among the symbolic first pieces of legislation brought in by the new government. Not so promising for the language included directly in the

government's new education bill. Still, The Scotsman newspaper reports that the past 20 years has seen a revival of the language large enough to at least stem the tide of extinction. There are approximately 70,000 Gaelic speakers in Scotland, with 8,000 learning the language on their own and some 2,200 primary-school pupils being taught in 70 state schools. There are also some 60,000 residents of Ireland whose main language is Irish Gaelic, and perhaps as many as 500,000 others there with some grasp of the language.



## Calling All Honourable Canadians



This December, Maclean's 14th annual Honour Roll will present 12 profiles of Canadians who have made a difference to the nation. This special report will appear in the December 13 issue, on sale December 6.

### Know any local stars in your community?

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## Canada

# Fall of a wheeler-dealer

Karlheinz Schreiber is arrested for tax evasion

By John Nicol

The Swiss accountant whose revelations about Karlheinz Schreiber precipitated the Airbus scandal was of two minds last week when he heard of the former lobbyist's arrest in Canada. Giorgio Pelosi, Schreiber's former partner, was happy that German authorities, who asked Canadian police to hold Schreiber for extradition, found documents to back up his claim that Schreiber received undeclared commissions for, among other things, dealing tanks to Saudi Arabia and Airbus planes to Air Canada. But he said he was sad to hear that his friend and colleague for 20 years before their falling out was facing such a legal battle. "My lawyer told him in 1990, 'If you don't make an agreement with Mr. Pelosi, he will fall from the first floor, but you will fall from the 10th floor,'" Pelosi told *Maclean's*. "Now he has had a very bad week."

That was an understatement. In the seven days prior to his arrest, Schreiber also lost his case in the Federal Court of Canada to stop the RCMP from getting access to his Swiss banking records. As well, Schreiber was unable to go to his mother's Aug. 27 funeral because of the outstanding warrant for his arrest. And whether the 65-year-old German-Canadian businessman and lobbyist successfully wins his fight to avoid extradition, he appears to have fallen from great heights. The onetime broker for helicopters, planes and tanks had been peddling a spaghetti-making machine in Barre, Ore., the day the RCMP arrested him in Toronto. When he appeared in court last Wednesday, Schreiber looked ruffled, when the judge asked him to speak, Schreiber

stumbled, "I don't know what to say," before he was led away.

German authorities allege Schreiber failed to pay almost \$21 million in income tax and made tax steering from \$8 million he earned brokering deals between 1988 and 1995. The arrest warrant included banking records showing Schreiber's company was paid \$20 million for the \$365-million sale by Thyssen Industrie AG of 36 jets to Saudi Arabia, \$1.1 million on the \$24.5-million purchase of 12 helicopters by the Canadian



Schreiber in Germany: money from the Airbus affair

Coast Guard from Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, \$15 million on Air Canada's \$1.8-billion purchase of 34 planes from Airbus Industrie, as well as \$4 million for a failed attempt to set up Bear Head Industries, a Thyssen subsidiary, in Nova Scotia. He was using the telephone of former Bear Head associate, Greg Alfond of Toronto, when German police ended his family's call notifying him that his mother was dying. Alfond, a former executive assistant to Frank Moore, who was Newfoundland premier from 1972 to 1979 and has also been named in the Airbus affair, declined to comment to *Maclean's*, saying: "I don't think the subject has much to do with me."

Just who will be implicated in Schreiber's

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## Canada

case will be the subject of much speculation. Based on information provided by Plossi in 1994-1995, German national media noted Schreiber's compound in Kitzfing, a small town near Munich where he has a three-story mansion, a separate office building and a fleet of Mercedes-Benz cars. During the October 1995 raid, police seized Schreiber's coded journal, which detailed transfers of money to several politicians and businessmen, inside Germany and out, often using companies in Luxembourg and Panama.

In May 1997, a German court issued a warrant for Schreiber's arrest. He fled to his apartment near the resort of Saint Moritz in Switzerland. When German officials managed to obtain Schreiber's Swiss banking records this spring, he fled Switzerland, and his whereabouts was unknown until he was traced to Canada. Using Schreiber's banking records, German authorities have arrested two executives of Thyssen for income tax evasion and criminal fraud. A third suspect, Holger Pöhlke—a former German defence ministry official code-named "Holger" in Schreiber's diary—has fled the country.

In Canada, meanwhile, the deals in which Schreiber was involved have also wreaked havoc. Former prime minister Brian Mulroney was caught up in the Airbus scandal when Canadian investigators named him, along with Schreiber and Moore, in a letter formally requesting help from Swiss authorities. Mulroney launched a \$50-million libel suit, in 1997, Ottawa was forced to apologize to him and pay \$2 million for his legal costs. After Schreiber's arrest, Mulroney's lawyers also produced a letter from Swiss officials stating that Mulroney is not connected to any of Schreiber's Swiss bank accounts. But the RCMP has refused to give up on the case. Last week, a Mulroney spokesman demanded that the Mozzettes publicly exonerate him. The Mozzettes said no, leaving a Mulroney spokesman hinting at the possibility of another lawsuit—and more drama in the ongoing Airbus affair. ☐

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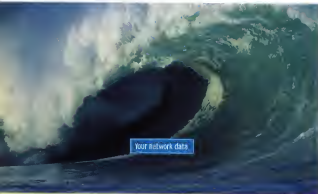


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## Remembering Swissair 111

Family, friends and dignitaries gathered in New Scotts to remember those who died in the Sept. 2, 1998, crash of Swissair Flight 111 off Peggy's Cove. "Your gift day will live on the rest of my life is this I'll never need strength or comfort, all I need to do is remember you," said Peggy Coburn of New York to all who helped in the recovery effort. Her husband, Richard, was among the 229 people who perished.

## Midway crash at the CNE

An accident at Toronto's Canadian National Exhibition sent 16 children to hospital. The mishap happened when rides above the Wave Swinger, a popular ride that sways thrill-seekers far above the ground, came crashing down after four cables snapped. The incident follows a rash of amusement park accidents in the United States.

## 'We will not forget the past'

With some apprehension, the 450 students at W. J. Ryan high school in Taber, Alta., returned for the fall semester—four months after the shooting that left one youth dead and another injured. "Through we will not forget the past, we want to learn from it," said Anne Harding, 17, the student council president. "We are displaying a pledge about caring for each other." A 15-year-old boy has been charged with the shooting, which came on the heels of the high-school massacre in Littleton, Colo., in which 15 people died.

## No Mountain union

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that RCMP officers do not have a constitutional right to form a union. The decision ended a 15-year battle by RCMP Staff Sgt. Gaetan Delisle, who argued that a government ban against RCMP unionization violated his right to freedom of association.

## Military fire sale

The department of national defence has endorsed a plan to sell off as much as 10 per cent of its property and buildings over the next five years in order to raise funds for equipment. DND spokesmen say the plan would not involve base closures.



## Disaster on an Ontario highway

At least seven people died in a shuttle-reaction series of fiery accidents on Ontario's 403 highway, 20 km from the U.S. border crossing at Windsor. The disaster, which occurred during a thick fog, involved 62 vehicles and sent 34 people to hospital. Mangled witnesses reported that one girl, trapped and unrecognizable behind searing flames, cried out repeatedly, "I'm only 14," before she died. The tragedy took place just west of a heavily travelled section known as the "killer highway" because at least 13 people have died there this year. It stems on the heels of a Quebec highway disaster on July 24 that killed five.

## La Francophonie and human rights

### Representatives of 52 countries met in New Brunswick for the eighth summit of La Francophonie.

The official theme of the gathering in Moncton, in the province's French-speaking Acadia region, was Francophone youth. But protesters digging for human rights further restriction was already controversial issue before the meeting, concerned the inclusion of countries that violate human rights. In fact, Amnesty International lists 32 of the participating nations, among them Rwanda and Rwanda, as human rights abusers. On

Saturday, three people were arrested after a clash between supporters and opponents of Congo leader Laurent Kabila.

Then to the opening of the three-day summit, French President Jacques Chirac, who also visited Ottawa and Quebec, acknowledged that some members of la Francophonie are not worthy of belonging to the organization of French-speaking nations. But on the prickly issue of relations between Ottawa and Quebec City, Chirac was conciliatory. Although he did say that France would support Quebec's right to determine its own future, he stressed that France and Canada are partners and that France has no wish to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

## Another hard voyage comes to an end

A third boatload of illegal Chinese immigrants arrived off the coast of British Columbia. The 190 people, who came in the wake of 234 Chinese who arrived on July 19 and Aug. 9, were aboard a derelict freighter to named this it appeared to be pursued in range. Canadian authorities evacuated the passengers at sea off Vancouver Island, fearing the ship was an unwelcome it would not make it to land. Last week, the RCMP also confirmed that a fourth boatload of illegal immigrants arrived in early July without being intercepted.

# Asia on the Rebound

By Tom Fennell

Digging out from a financial meltdown, the economic tigers of the Far East are lean, mean and ready for a comeback

## Road to recovery

Growth rates for selected Asian economies



Lawrence Ngai and his wife Donna were hunting with optimism when they moved into their new \$650,000 two-bedroom apartment in Hong Kong's Kowloon district in March, 1997. Nothing seemed beyond their reach. The economy was chugging ahead, and Ngai, 30, a mechanical engineer, opened a consulting firm. But within months, his fledgling business was teetering on the edge of bankruptcy and the couple's home had lost more than half its value. As Canadian owners of Asian mutual funds know only too well, much of the region's vaunted economy collapsed in the semi-recession that became known as the Asian Flu. "It was bad," sighs Ngai. "We're just trying to survive. It is going to take time to restore the bloom of the early 1990s."

Asia is still littered with the wreckage of economic meltdown. Malaysia rejects like Malaysia 88-story Petronas Twin Towers, at 452 m the tallest buildings in the world, remain unfinished. Carpenter titans like South Korea's Daewoo Group, which once produced everything from computer chips to cars, have been driven bankrupt. Thailand alone has closed more than 15 banks. But despite the carnage, there are indications that better economic reforms, which led to layoffs of thousands of people from jobs in Tokyo, have started to kick in. South markets are on the rebound, and the so-called tiger economies, while hardly roaring, are beginning to grow again. China, which remained largely untouched by the free-market contagion, continues to post solid gains. And even

Japan's sluggish economy, the world's second-largest and once the Asian engine fueling growth in the region, seems so be spurring to life after nearly 10 years of stagnation. "Japan is bumping along the bottom," Canadian Ambassador Leonard Edwards told *Maclean's* last week, "but we see fundamental changes that should position Japan for long-term growth."

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will go a firsthand look at Japan's progress when he leads a group of parliament and 250 business people on a Team Canada visit there next week. By then, he will be well briefed. He will arrive from Auckland, New Zealand, where he and leaders from the 20 other members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum will discuss the regional prospect at their annual summit. They are likely to report that while 1998 was a disaster—Asian economic output as a whole fell by nearly one per cent after years of soaring growth—this year is showing a healthy resurgence and 2000 could foster regional expansion of more than two per cent. Stock markets are already taking note, in the relief of those mutual fund holders. Japan's Nikkei index has risen by 37 per cent from its bottom last October. Hong Kong is up 98 per cent in 12 months, and Korea, Thailand and most other Asia markets are also rising nicely. Kenneth Fries, chief economist at Deutsche Bank Group Asia Pacific in Tokyo, believes that if the world's



Modern shop for American furniture in Tokyo, still very

economy continues to grow, the increasingly lean and mean Asian tiger will boom. "These countries have chopped their costs down low enough that they are competitive again," says Coaritis. "Now they have real clout."

Much of the region's future prosperity, however, depends on the U.S. economy's ability to keep growing. Japan, which has already been suffering eight years of economic stagnation when the Asia crisis hit. Without a robust Japan, analysts fear, the region's economic resurgence is doomed. The government has repeatedly tried to get Japan to boost growth by spending some of their famously high savings, but consumers remain wary. Unemployment has reached a record 4.9 per cent—and many workers fear they may be next. "Yes, on the street of Tokyo, it is hardly all gloom and doom. Women still browse last week through the luxury shops on the Nishi-Shinjuku, a tree-lined avenue paved in red granite in the heart of Tokyo's Ginza shopping district. They pass by thousands of dollar-unpursed handbags and are supposed to have vanished in the economic rubble, but many still make sacrifices to purchase products made by the likes of Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Chanel. "My summer bonus was cut," admitted Yoko Shimada, a 25-year-old office worker, as her eyes crossed a tan sachel bearing the all-important interlocking Winiton insignia. "But so I live with my parents and plan to get married soon. I guess I can still afford it."

At dusk, just 10 minutes from Ginza in the adjacent white-

collar Shinjuku district, businessmen are still pumped by ginshis in the elegant upscale-accoutrements that line the quiet side streets. But nearby, business is not what it once was. Empty mansions line up for rent, and new discount shops are proliferating that sell everything priced over 100 yen (\$1.40)—the Japanese equivalent of the dollar store.

The buzzword shaping the long-sought Japanese turnaround is *renew*, a Japanese approximation for restructuring. In pursuit of reform, the government no longer forces corporations to employ workers for life, and has allowed some of its leading financial institutions to fail. Insurer Dai-ichi has been slashed, while the government has embarked on huge public spending. That has made Japan's government debt the worst in the Group of Seven industrialized countries.

But such outcomes do not seem to fire foreign investors. Major Western commentators, believing the economy has hit bottom, have been baying struggling Japanese firms. The enthusiasm is largely responsible for a rising yen—it closed at a high of 109 to the U.S. dollar last week—and the remarkable rebound of the Tokyo stock exchange. The Nikkei's close at 17,631 last week is well less than half of the peak it reached on Dec. 28, 1989, just before Japan's real-estate-fueled "bubble economy" crashed, but that is healthy. Edwards believes that the fruits of the fiscal restructuring are sustainable. "Japan did not make the changes it should have when it came out of the bubble," said the ambassador. "But the more cuts have really focused minds on what needs fixing."

Canadian exports to Japan—Canada's second-largest

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## World

trading partners—have slowed since the Asian flu hit, but many of the business people with Chinet hope to cash in on another aspect of the Japanese recovery.

Tokyo is gaining much of its growth hopes on the Internet and technology. Personal computer sales are booming, while about 10 per cent of households and 80 per cent of businesses have Internet access. A new kind of Japanese entrepreneur is emerging in the high-tech boom. Minoposhi Sen, whose ethnic Korean family were poor squatters, is the 42-year-old founder and chairman of Softbank. Established in 1981, Softbank has grown from a wholesaler of software into a major player in the Internet and turned Sen, often called Japan's Bill Gates, into one of the world's richest men.

Such growth is creating opportunities for Canadian high-tech companies, including Joffery of Toronto, which has

transparent and less vulnerable to corruption and computers, often cited as key reasons for the massive overvaluing that precipitated the crash.

Korean President Kim Dae Jung has even managed to reform the chaotic, the giant conglomerates such as Hyundai, Daewoo and Samsung that helped turn South Korea into an economic giant. The chaebol enjoyed unlimited access to bank loans and were allowed to borrow and expand without regard to the debt they ran up. "The message is loud and clear," and Yi Sang Seung, an economist at Seoul's Sogang University. "From now on, even top chaebol can be dismantled when they make wrong investments and lose money."

While economists may be turning around, skeptics say that the reforms may not go deep enough to sustain the recovery. Other analysts worry about China,

## Canadian high-tech companies hope to cash in on Japan's Internet growth

captured 80 per cent of the Japanese market for electronic business forms. "The amazing thing," said Edwards, "is that while there is a significant decline in the overall volume of our exports, in high-tech areas it has been growing."

Revving up Japan's Internet and Internet machine would also help the rest of Asia, confident in daily terms, surrounded, often in the wake of painful financial restructuring. "Many of these countries are gaining strength," said Joni Mendicino, chief economist at the CIBC. "Even Indonesia, which really went through the wringer, is improving." Indonesia's economy shrank by 13.7 per cent in 1998, and is expected to be overtaken by continued and apparent conflict such as the East Timor struggle (page 52). But it is still projected to grow by up to two per cent next year. South Korea and Thailand—also, like Indonesia, by the International Monetary Fund—have undertaken sweeping reforms. Their economies are already showing growth this year. All three countries have pledged to make their financial systems more

The Asian giant is racing to reform its economy by making state-owned firms operate like private businesses. More than 30 million people are now unemployed, and if the economy slows, Beijing might choose to devalue the currency in a bid to boost exports. That could trigger a new round of Asian devaluations. But William Overholt, Asia strategist with Northern Securities in Hong Kong, believes the country will successfully transform itself. "China started to develop later than others in the region," he said, "but they decided to learn from what others were doing in the crisis cleanup."

In the end, Overholt says the focus of the Asian open arms with American consumers. "The booming U.S. economy is making up cheap imports from Asia. If U.S. markets collapse," said Overholt, "Asia would have problems." But so far, the harsh medicine much of the region swallowed to combat the Asian flu looks like it is starting to work.

Web Page: [McGill.ca/Tokyo](http://McGill.ca/Tokyo)  
Susan Oh in Toronto

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A soldier leads back a militia member in Dili on Saturday following the first invasion

wiped UN compound left at least five people dead, while nearby police stayed away for about 30 minutes. Two UN workers were killed in an outlying town the next day in response to furious international demands to remove aid. Jakarta sent in about 1,400 more troops to add to the 20,000 it already has in the province. But after the vote result was announced, there were more reports of killings in outlying areas and high tension in Dili.

Yet stopping the violence will be just the first task facing East Timor as it rebuilds after 25 years of warfare and deprivation. Part of an island lying about 600 km north of Australia, it is a sandy poor place where jobs grow the arms of Dili and the literacy rate stands at more than 60 per cent. Per capita economic output is about \$225 a year, less than Bangladesh's.

The top economic priority will be to get agricultural production back on its feet. Transportation problems have made it difficult to get the important coffee harvest to market. There is not enough access to water: many villages have no wells and there is very little irrigation. But as a senior development official pointed out, some well-spent money to fix roads and improve water distribution could quickly raise the standard of living. Much of that aid would have to come from foreign donors such as Canada, which is spending about \$4 million this year.

Independence leaders like Ramos Horta, who was co-winner of the Nobel in 1996 with local bishop Carlos Belo, believe the future will be much brighter without Indonesia. "They have left a legacy of underdevelopment and corruption and violence," he said. He held out hopes for offshore oil and gas reserves, although skeptics note they are in very deep water, making development expensive.

In the wake of the renewed violence, there were more calls for a UN peace-keeping force. But that couldn't occur, top Indonesian officials maintained, until the parliament in Jakarta ratifies the vote results in November. A new nation in Timor could have a bloody birth. ■

## Judges blame Diana's driver

In their final report on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, two French judges blamed intoxicated driver Henri Paul for the high-speed car crash that killed the princess, boyfriend Dodi Fayed and Paul, two years ago. The magistrates cleared nine photographers and a press motorcyclist who followed the car, saying they were not close when the accident occurred. Dodi's father, Mohamed Al Fayed, who claims there was a conspiracy to murder his son and Diana, said he would appeal the decision.

## Moscow bomb blast

Russian police arrested Dmitry Ponomarev, leader of the extremist Revolutionary Workers' Union, after a letter signed by the group was found at the site of a bombing that injured 41 people in a shopping mall near the Kremlin. The pro-consumers group says it is waging a war against Western-style consumerism.

## Air tragedy kills 69

After an Argentine airliner crashed in Buenos Aires, killing 69 people, employees charged that the airline had been cutting corners on safety. The Boeing 737 flown by Linco Aerios Privada Argentina had 103 people aboard when it ran off the runway and slammed across a busy highway.

## Rescuers give up hope

A new search, spanning 5.2 km of the Richter scale-killed at least one person in northeastern Turkey, is considered futile. They had all but given up hope of finding any more people alive since the devastating Aug. 17 earthquake in the region. The confirmed death toll rose to 36,000, with thousands more still to be accounted for.

## CARE workers released

Two American workers for the international aid agency CARE were released after five months in jail in Yugoslavia following international appeals for clemency. A court had sentenced Steve Price and Peter Wilbur to long prison terms for allegedly spying during the Kosovo crisis. A Yugoslav colleague remains in jail.



## Another white house for the Clintons

A five-bedroom, \$2.7 million (U.S.) home bought by U.S. President Bill Clinton and wife Hillary sits in the leafy New York City suburb of Chappaqua in Westchester County. The Clintons will live in the 100-year-old Dutch Colonial-style house after the President's term ends. It will also fulfill Hillary Clinton's residency requirement in her expected campaign to become a U.S. senator.

## Reno confronts the FBI over Waco

Evidence mounted that the FBI deliberately fired flammable tear-gas canisters near the Branch Davidians compound near Waco, Tex., during the 1993 assault on the militant Christian cult. Nearly 80 people died in the burning compound, including cult leader David Koresh. The FBI for six years denied using such weapons, but last week admitted it had discovered videotape confirming that combustible military rounds were fired. U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, said she was "very con-

vinced over what has transpired" and would appoint an independent outsider to investigate.

In a dramatic indication of her frayed relations with the bureau, Reno sent U.S. attorneys to at Washington headquarters to take possession of the videotapes. Made by surveillance aircraft, the tapes included an audio track in which FBI agents obtained permission to fire the flammable rounds. Bureau officials continued to insist that the tear-gas canisters were used before the fire began, and did not start at Reno, who had formerly defended FBI actions in the assault, but her orders on the day were not to fire any incendiary devices.

## Moving ahead on Middle East peace

Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed an agreement to restart a long-delayed West Bank pullback by Israel and to release 550 Palestinian prisoners, clearing the way for an overall peace accord. The pact, agreed in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, implements the 1990 Wye agreement on Israeli troop withdrawals and calls for the two sides to resolve the nature of Palestinian selfhood and the status of Jerusalem within one year. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy urged Syria and Lebanon to join the widening circle of peace.

## World Indonesia

# A bloody birth

By Warren Caragata in Jakarta

After nearly a quarter of a century, the people of my impoverished East Timor finally had the chance to say what future they wanted—independence, or joining a part of Indonesia. As a plebiscite result 98.5 per cent of voters turned out, a top leader of the independence camp, Nobel

was tempered by a deadly new round of violence by militia-wielding anti-separation militias. Some Western officials believed the Indonesian military and police, widely seen as the main support for the militia, would provoke a final, bloody outbreak of terror before pulling out. Indonesian soldiers invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 after a leftist force declared independence, and many have clearly opposed the decision by newly democratizing Jakarta this year to let East Timor go its own way. "Everyone is very scared and they are fleeing to the mountains and hiding to avoid retaliation and revenge from the militia," said one human rights worker too frightened to let his name be used.

The violence reached a crescendo on Sept. 1 as UN officials supervising the vote began opening ballot boxes brought under heavy guard by helicopter to its headquarters in Dili, the capital. A rampage by pro-Indonesian militia and a pitched battle with a gang of independence supporters outside the

Peace Prize winner Jose Ramos Horta, said he hailed from exile in Sydney, Australia, and watched history unfold on television. "I had seen it in my eyes," he said. Moshood, "People just came out from everywhere, it was incredible."

And when the result was announced at the weekend, Timorese had voted overwhelmingly for independence, with 78.5 per cent in favor. But the joy for many

# Going E-postal

Canada's mail service wants to transform itself into a leader of the electronic age

By Mary Joenigen

**Tucked into the impressive British Columbia golf and ski resort of Sun Peaks is a rustic shop, Uniquely Canadian Enterprises Inc., with an equally unique online shipping service. Those who venture onto its Internet site encounter a range of distinctive craft selections under such playful titles as "Wool It" and "Earle." But even more interesting options appear when they turn to date delivery method: eParcel service automatically calculates the weight of their package and the distance it must travel—then offers a choice of postal services, estimating the exact cost and date of arrival. It even selects the most economical container from the lot of eParcel boxes, and Uniquely Canadian's warehouse "We said, 'Let's make e-commerce work for us,'" says co-owner Barbara Mowat, "so that we can keep the prices low."**

Perhaps the real surprise with eParcel—only available in Mowat's area until an official launch on Oct. 1—is its unlikely owner: Canada Post Corp. Yes, the post office. That ugly dislodging of the communications industry, which can trace its often-troubled ancestry back to the creation of the first post office in Halifax in 1755, is struggling to transform itself into the twin of the electronic age. Starting next week,

and continuing into the new year, it will be launching an array of online services ranging from a secure online to electronic money orders to an Electronic Post Office that will deliver financial statements, direct mail and bills—with electronic payment options included.

At the same time, Canada Post is aggressively drumming up other new business. It is courting direct-mail clients, emphasizing its ability to target delivery. Its sales agents have been so anxious that Canada Post produce direct marketing revenues will use from the current \$687 million in 1998-1999 to more than \$1.1 billion in 2000-2001. Meanwhile, it is planning to transform its postal outlets from stamp counters and greeting card stores into one-stop operations that could offer everything from Internet access to the Electronic Post Office to basic financial services such as the cashbacking of registered retirement savings plans with participating banks. "Canada Post has to become much quicker on its feet," says David Sorensen, Canada Post's vice-president of marketing and product development. "This is not a difficult time, it is the biggest single opportunity Canada Post has ever had."

That "opportunity" first appeared to be a sentence of doom

*Sevens at the national control center: the Web is not a threat, but the biggest single opportunity Canada Post has ever had*

death in the mid-1990s, as electronic communications and courier services began to carve chunks out of the post office's business. Over the past five years, the total annual volume, which includes everything from direct-mail flyers to packages, dropped to 9.6 billion from 11.6 billion pieces. Personal letters are declining at the rate of about one per cent a year—as plugged-in customers switch to the convenience of e-mail. Total letter mail grew slightly over the period to two-income families received more individual bills and financial statements. But the writing is on the post office wall as financial institutions move to deliver their messages electronically.

**Canada Post itself predicts that revenue from letter mail will drop by more than \$200 million over the next five years. "We could not put up our hands and say, 'Stop,'" says Bill Robertson, Canada Post's general manager of electronic commerce. "All of our research says that electronic transactions are going to continue to grow. It is just a fact of life."**

But joining the electronic fray has been an uphill battle—if only because Canada Post has had to fight its own lingering reputation as a stale, poor, inefficient relic of another

era. In 1981, Ottawa dismantled the former government department into a Crown corporation—largely because it was plagued with the frequent labour disruptions, poor service and hefty annual deficits. The new corporation murdered its own mail Ontario's prison warden to deliver the mail on time, improve labour relations—and make money for its hard-pressed federal shareholder.

The results are mixed. Last year, Canada Post made a profit of \$50 million, its fourth consecutive year in the black. It even paid a \$12-million dividend to Ottawa, based on the previous year's earnings. But the corporation is still without a president and CEO more than eight months after Georges Clement resigned last December. Chairman and former Liberal cabinet minister André Ouellet's term as interim president and CEO is to expire at the end of this month.

Labour relations also remain strained. In June 1997, postal workers staged a scorching two-week strike on the brink of the Christmas holiday season. Ottawa eventually passed back-to-work legislation, but the dispute over work conditions and job security is still in abeyance. Canada Post from that on



labour contracts will impede its adjustment. Just one example: its 53,000 workers include 19,000 postal carriers who are allowed up to 70 minutes of paid time to travel back and forth to their home depot for a 30-minute lunch break. As well, although Canada Post says it will guarantee job security for permanent employees, it is refusing the unions' demand that a set percentage of work be performed by full-time employees. Facing for an electronic future, its own corporate plan wants clearly: "Labour issues will become even more acute as electronic substitution inevitably erodes volume."

It is such historical hangovers that do little to reassure mill-wary clients. "Every time there is a postal strike, it tells the customer, 'You just better find new ways of delivering your service,'" says Garth Whyte, senior vice-president of the 95,000-member Canadian Federation of Independent Business. A



Bill Kerdman of e-route: the emerging basis for the electronic bill payer

Canada Post officials estimate that parcel distribution revenues will soar \$1.8 billion to \$2.3 billion by 2004. They may be right. "Only about 30 per cent of the people who are online shoppers today actually buy something," says Elliot Schreiber, chief operating officer at the Toronto-based Alliance for Converging Technologies. "What is stopping them is the issue of security—which will soon be fixed—and the fact that they want the product now. So

local retailers. They could then pay the bills by clicking on a hot link to their bank. Eventually, they will be able to pay their bills directly with the simple click of a button. Although the service will be free for the client, the sender will pay a fee. "Canada Post has a reputation for privacy, security, trust and reliability," says Robertson. "And that is a big value in this particular marketplace."

When it begins that spring, e-route inc. will initially deliver only bills. Although it will later add financial information such as bank statements or trade-purchase confirmations, it will not deliver other types of mail such as retail ads. "Between our six members, we already represent two-thirds of Canadian bank accounts," says e-route chief executive officer Bryan Kerdman.

"We have 1.25 million customers who already pay their bills through some form of electronic method. Since people are already paying their bills here, this is the best place to deliver them."

Given such blue-chip competition, can the purveyor of the post expect a promising future? Letter writers may be craving to pass scraps on pages. But with direct mail and ePost and the transformation of its postal outlets into retail centres, Canada Post is projecting profits of \$80 million by the spring of 2004. "Canada Post delivers along really well to people's doorsteps," says Bill Budd, president of the Toronto-area consulting firm E-Summer.com. "If you hand them 100,000 properly worded letters, they will get it done. So if Canada Post focuses on what it can do with the Internet, on how it can deliver stuff from Chapters or Sears, it will be a very profitable organisation."

Canada Post is right: the distribution network is going to be critical.

Then there is the Electronic Post Office, a joint venture with Cebra Inc., a subsidiary of the Bank of Montreal. Large-scale trials began next week, when the service will be offered to 200,000 employees at the bank, Canada Post and other participating lenders. Full-scale public service may commence later this fall. That is at least four months ahead of its toughest competition: e-route inc., the creation of six financial institutions including the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Both services will deliver electronic bills or other documents—with crucial differences. Clients will be able to create a personal mail box on the Canada Post Web site, receive a user ID and password, and select the organizations from which they want mail. That mail could include everything from hydro and credit-card bills to sales pitches from re-

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## The post office of tomorrow will offer Internet shopping and choice of delivery

member survey in 1995 indicated that only 37 per cent of 15,000 respondents were satisfied with Canada Post's cost and service. "I am getting hives that their awareness of our needs is increasing," says Whyte. "But not that much has changed."

For Canada Post, its best hopes lie with its parcel distribution services as more customers shop on the Internet, more packages will have to be delivered. Canada Post owns 96 per cent of Parlobase Courier Ltd. and operates its own distribution services, ranging from Priority Courier to the fast-growing Xpresspost to regular parcel service. When ePost becomes fully operational next month, its clients will include more than 75 shopping sites. "Product line books and videos and CDs have become a Web commodity," says Canada Post's business development director Francine Conn. "And online customers want more choice and more control."

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## Selling a hockey palace

Is it keeping the Canadiens, but fewer Molson Inc. says it is prepared to part with the sparkling new hockey arena that bears its name. Tired of Montreal's high property taxes, Molson says it is willing to sell all or part of the 21,273-sq-ft Molson Centre as well as its half share in a concert production firm.

## More bank money

The first two of the Big Six banks reported—no surprise—solid third-quarter profits. Scotiabank enjoyed an 11-per-cent surge, to \$397 million or 75 cents a share, from a year ago. The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce reported a whopping 61-per-cent increase, to \$394 million, over a dismal third quarter in 1998. In all, the six banks posted \$2.15 billion in profit for the three months ending July 31.

## Sprint going local

With profit margins being squeezed for their long-distance listings, Sprint Canada Inc. is stepping up its interest in local phone service. In February, it entered the Calgary market; last month, Vancouver; and last week, it took on Miss Bell where it lives in Toronto, suburban Mississauga and Markham—with an added pinch to homeowners and small business users who speak Cantonese.

## Fee for flying

Operators of Toronto's Pearson airport, Canada's busiest, are getting set to introduce a \$10 "airport access fee" to help pay for a proposed \$4.6-billion redevelopment. To be added to the ticket price, the levy is not expected to be introduced for at least a year.

## New home for Nova

Just a year after it stepped from the shadow of its pipeline-owning parent, Nova Chemicals Corp. is moving its executive headquarters from Calgary to Pittsburgh. In a decision that caught the Alberta government, industry leaders and even Nova's honorary chairman Bob Blair by surprise, Nova will keep its official head office in Calgary but move its CEO and all its top executives to Pittsburgh to be closer to its major customers.

## Business Notes

## Reshaping the retail chains

Customers continue to flock in, but consumer spending alone doesn't seem enough to stop the upheaval taking place among the world's large retailers. The big news last week: a \$24.6-billion merger of two French chains—Carrefour and Promodes—in what seems to be the first of several defensive alignments to ward off the anticipated invasion of discount king Wal-Mart Stores Inc. Arkansas-based Wal-Mart bought two German retailers and a British supermarket chain and appears poised to storm the European market. Carrefour-Promodes—formerly two supermarket chains that sold everything from groceries to car tires—became the world's second-largest retailer. But don't test everything.

In the United States, Sears Roebuck's sales rose a dismal 0.1 per cent in August compared with the previous year—well below the industry norm. The news sent shares tumbling and forced an executive shakeup. In Canada, department store sales jumped a healthy 8.8 per cent in July from the previous year. Statistics Canada reported. But that was still too little too late for the 130-year-old Bloor's chain whose liquidation sales may continue, a judge ruled.

## The world's top five retailers by sales:

	sales
Wal-Mart	\$209.7
Carrefour-Promodes	\$74.3
Metro AG	\$74
Sears Roebuck	\$52.4
Kmart	\$50.8

## Microsoft's e-mail on worldwide display

Online privacy took a huge leap into the unknown when hackers showed a way to bust open the accounts of 40 million people, including 2.5 million Canadians, who use Microsoft's free Hotmail service. How big was the breach? Well, among the samples posted on a Web site was e-mail from Microsoft president Steve Ballmer. Microsoft shut down Hotmail for several hours to fix the bug. The puzzle software maker says no customers complained about e-mail tampering, but experts say it is only a matter of time before small operations are compromised.

## Financial outlook

If Finance Minister Paul Martin only wants to spark a debate on productivity this fall, he now has some added fuel, courtesy of the International Labour Organization.

In its annual report, the UN organization says that American workers are pulling away from their Canadian counterparts—and the rest of the world—in hours worked and productivity. Americans work on average 234 hours a year more than Canadians, and their load has been increasing while the Canadian average has actually fallen by 3.2 hours since the start of the decade. The Canadian average is closer to the European countries, while the United States, Japan, Australia and New Zealand are putting their shoulders to the wheel.

## PUTTING IN THE HOURS

Canadian workers are falling behind Americans in annual hours worked.



Source: International Labour Organization



## Waffles online

Tired of shopping in crowded grocery stores with long checkout lines? Why not try the Web? In many Canadian cities, shoppers can now check their way through a virtual store, create a permanent weekly shopping list and decide when their groceries should be delivered. Everything from bananas to frozen french fries to laundry detergent are available online.

The largest of these online enterprises, The Patch Tree Network ([www.patchtreetwork.com](http://www.patchtreetwork.com)), has an regional supermarkets from Vancouver to St. John's, Nfld., on its Web site and four more about to launch. The regional setup allows for individualized menus: organic produce in Vancouver, meat frozen food choice in Toronto. And in 15,000 registered users tend to purchase about \$100 worth of groceries when they shop. For Internet food shopper Terry Haugen of Edmonton, the attraction is the competitive pricing and the convenience she doesn't have to drag two small daugh-



A grocery delivery in Edmonton. Web buying.

ters to the supermarket. Though business more than doubled last year to \$1 million, Patch Tree's marketing director Bob MacKidd is not looking for an overnight. "It's very different than a book or CD sale," he says. "Groceries are very customer about food."

Cautious still, more grocery companies are moving online. Last month, Vancouver-based General Store International launched online ordering ([www.gstorewest.com](http://www.gstorewest.com)) to supplement its largely phone and fax delivery business. And later this month, ThriftDepot.com will invite Canadians to try its gourmet foods, with just a click of the mouse.

## Leadership advice for the family firm

It's cold comfort, with Canada's flagship lender going down the tubes, but the fourth-generation Eaton firm did beat the odds. According to a survey of 276 family-owned Canadian businesses by chartered accountants Grant Thornton International, just one in 10 survive to the third generation. Grant Thornton's advice: pay family members only for their contributions to the company and above all begin a succession plan by the time the current leader is in his or her 50s.

## Forecast: Car sales

The Canadian auto industry is in a decline, with 1999 expected to be the best year in a decade for sales of new cars and trucks. Used vehicles are also riding off the lot. All told, 1.35 million personal cars and trucks are expected to be sold this year. And a recent poll of 2,500 Canadian vehicle owners indicates that sales will remain strong

into 2000. The survey by DeRosier Automotive Consultants of Richmond Hill, Ont., found that almost one in four existing owners plan to buy or lease a new auto within the next 12 months. The keenest buyers are among the 18-to-35 age-group. But consumer interest generally, the report says, is the strongest it has been in four years.

## Money talks

### Trendy advice

**Move over** Martha Stewart. When the doyenne of the nominally trendy does for home and health, economist Sherry Cooper manages for the pocketbook. Globalization, the value of mutual funds, aging baby boomers, how much you should sock away for retirement—it's all in *The Cooper File: A Practical Guide to Your Financial Future* by the American-born chief economist at Nabors Burns who came to Canada in 1983 to try to save a doomed marriage and stayed anyway. A talk-show regular, Cooper aims for down-home practicality and in the end makes the duller science almost poetry.

### Pennies from Canada

When Europeans open their wallets to the new euro currency, some of the alloy coins they'll be hefting will be Canadian. No, not the low-flying loonie. But of the 50 billion coins needed for the Jan. 1, 2002, launch, almost 13 per cent will be forged from 15,000 tonnes of Canadian steel. Alberta's Western Corp., a producing the electrified blanks for European mints who will then swap them into the new one-, two- and five-cent pieces that so annoy coin-pyng Canadians.

### Putting the home in lock

The Royal Bank says the percentage of people who would borrow against their homes for investment purposes dropped sharply from 1998.

### Reasons for borrowing against home equity

	1998	1999
Investment	22%	21%
Ac emergency	28	24
Unspecified financial need	5	11
Business finance	4	3
New vehicle	1	5
New home	6	5
Property/land purchase	2	4
Education	1	4

Source: Royal Bank



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The unique fascination of Hong Kong for many visitors is the seamless way in which ancient traditions thrive in an phenomenal city. These contrasts appear clear on heritage tours which visit some of Hong Kong's oldest sights and also as reminders of Architecture Walks which guide visitors through sights of architectural significance. There is also a special museum pass which costs just HK\$90 for unlimited access to a number of major museums.

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### 2 SIGHTS

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### 3 FEAST



### 5 HAPPENINGS

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People Edited by Tanya Davies

## Boat of gold

Canadian kayaker Caroline Brunet becomes the world champion—again

Winning has not grown old for kayaker Caroline Brunet. The 30-year-old from Lac Beauport, Que., who won a silver medal at the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, qualified last week to compete in four different events at next year's Sydney Olympics. She swept the three women's slalom events at the 1999 world canoe and kayak championships on Lake Lucerne in Milan, Italy, and placed second in the K-2 500-m competition, with partner Karen Fourness, 22, of Wincey, N.S. It is the second time that Brunet has captured world championship gold in all three singles classes—she finished first at 200, 500 and 1,000 m at the 1997 worlds in Darnmouth, N.S., as well. But she says she was even happier for victory this time—she won "really" two of three world titles last year in Hungary. "Once I got a taste for winning," she told *Maclean's*, "I wanted to do it again and again."

Brunet and a few particularly scrupulous to accomplish the sweep when all the top contenders were at the starting line. In the 200 and 500, she outmaneuvered both silver-medallist Josefina Alessi of Italy and Rita Kaban of Hungary, who beat Brunet for gold in the K-500 in Atlanta. "A highlight for me was finally beating Kaban," Brunet said. "She hadn't been at the last two world championships, so this was definitely the strongest field I had faced since the Olympics."

Back home in Montreal, Brunet said she would take three weeks off, relaxing on a lake in the Laurentians. That, she claims, is all the down time she can afford before returning to training. "There are things I can do to improve," she claims. "That is what motivates me." Still, Brunet was reaping her success, not just for the sweep but also for the timing. Against



Brunet celebrating a victory for winning gold medals

the women, she will have to face at the 2000 Summer Olympics in 11 months, Brunet's three victories proved that the enthusiasm regimen she has been following in preparation for Sydney is paying off. "It gives me a tremendous boost of confidence," she explains, "and my training is good and I am going in the right direction."

## Martini madam

Loren (Lola) Danworth knows one thing or two about entertaining: In the late 1980s, the Vancouver native became famous for helping to create the hugely popular Los Angeles supper club, the Flamingo Coliseum—a 700-capacity night spot which featured bands like U2 and the Gipsy Kings. Later, she opened PinNin's Soul, a Moroccan club offering a soulful mix of live bands and creative catering for the hip and the happening. After stints at the House of Blues as a special events director and



Danworth: the hot club on Hollywood

on the short-lived *Dennis Miller* TV talk show, as a segment producer, Danworth decided to fulfil a lifelong dream of owning her own restaurant.

Lola, situated in the trendy West Hollywood area, is decorated in a mix of gold tones and classic pinin. It boasts an extensive martini list (50 varieties and counting). "I have named all the martinis after significant people or events in my life," says the 38-year-old Danworth. "People have become very emotional about the martinis, the fact that they do it is cute and it's about the fact looking for drinks named after them." With cran like Drew Barrymore, Leonardo DiCaprio, k.d. lang, Jerry Seinfeld and David Bowie dropping in for dinner, she'll never be in short supply for names.



The song "Satin in Dreams" might be from her new album "Satin & Silk" for rhythm

## Canada's Diana Krall has captivated the music world with her top-selling jazz albums and is on the fast track to even wider fame

By Nicholas Jennings

**It's mid-morning** in a quiet hotel restaurant and Diana Krall is having a love affair with an artichoke. One by one, she peels off the leaves and dips them into a small bowl of balsamic vinegar before gently lifting them to her mouth and slowly pulling the tender flesh off with her teeth. It's a meal she clearly relishes, washing down each morsel with a tip of chardonnay. But for Krall, this is also lunch. Having already done a photo shoot, and with an in-store appearance scheduled for noon, the Canadian jazz star is taking her meal while she can—even if it means being interviewed at the same time. Briefly distracted as she finally reaches the artichoke's prized heart ("Parfait me," she says, "this is the delicate part"), Krall admits that her fondness for the vegetable verges on a fetish. "I once went on a date with a guy and taught him how to eat these things," she recalls with a grin. "He said it was one of the most romantic things in the world."

The same is being said about Krall. Sexy, sultry, seductive—the (right) points attract the sort of many adjectives usually reserved for Hollywood actresses. Except Krall doesn't rely on her looks alone. Instead, she does it with her low purring voice, teasing rapturous razzmatazz out of jazz standards

and scored by the likes of Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole. Krall may be an "erotic girl for rhythm," as she sings in one of her tunes, but she is also a glamorous girl for jazz. Already, she has captivated the music world with several top-selling albums, including 1997's *Late September*, which sold an astonishing 500,000 copies worldwide and became the first-ever jazz record to go platinum in Canada.

Now she's on the fast track to even wider fame, with TV and movie appearances, sold-out tours and ever bigger record sales. This summer, Krall's U.S.-based record label pressed one million copies of her latest release, *When I Look in Your Eyes*. And her current North American tour—the Canadian leg opens in Saint John, N.B., on Oct. 5 and closes in her home town of Nanaimo, B.C., on Oct. 30—will put her before her largest audiences to date. "The hottest thing that happened in jazz in years," gushes the U.S. monthly *JazzTimes* in its latest issue, while London's *Desi Jazz* calls her "a truly great singer, in the tradition of Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and Peggy Lee."

That's pretty marvellous company for a 34-year-old musician. But Krall, who is outselling every jazz artist from Wynton Marsalis to Harry Connick Jr., has been moving in some similar circles of late. For her new album, she teamed up with

## Krall's record company is taking advantage of her sexy image, but the performer insists she would sound the same 'if I wore Birkenstocks'

legendary arranger Johnny Mandel, best known for his work with Sinatra, Lee and Basford Smead. She collaborated with Rosemary Clooney on a track for the 71-year-old singer's next album and shared a bill with Tony Bennett on a U.S. concert date earlier this month. And among Krall's many mentors is Ray Brown, Fitzgerald's former husband and Oscar Peterson's longtime mentor. Peterson was Canada's first international jazz star and has long been one of Krall's biggest idols (page 40). (Coincidentally, she too leads a trio and is signed to Verve, the label for some of Peterson's most popular albums.) Meanwhile, Krall's career has taken her into the film world, and she now coaches dancer Sydney Pollack and actor-director Clint Eastwood, who has featured her music in his last three movies, among her friends.

**During her encounter with the arranger,** Krall appears almost acrobatic herself. Her blond hair, dyed in between dreadlocks, flung in atop combs to her black designer outfit. Tall and broad-shouldered, she has the athletic build of the girl who spent summers swimming and water skiing on Vancouver Island. Verve is taking advantage of the image, with a lush marketing campaign that includes giant colour posters and life-size cutouts of Krall. Then there's Bruce Weber's provocative shot of her, wrapped only in a white bedsheet, in the July *Vanity Fair*, and an upcoming spread in *Glamour* magazine. But Krall doesn't like to discuss the image thing, insisting that it has nothing to do with her music. "If I wore Birkenstocks and ditched those ray sunglasses I would still sound the same," she says. "I happen to love clothes, but I'm also unsure about any art."

Krall's art—combining a delicate, minimalist touch on the keyboard with a witty, theatrical way with a lyric—shines through on *When I Look in Your Eyes*. Over a ball of lush, Mandel-orchestrated strings, Krall catches such well-worn sentiments as *Let's Face the Music and Dance*. But with her close, delectable phrasing and a rasping bossa nova beat, she brings a freshness to the material, making even *I've Got You Under My Skin*, a song long associated with Sinatra, her own. One of the CD's highlights is *Myra Breckinridge*, a playfully suggestive track that echoes her previous novelty songs such as *Poss From Sin* and *And Me a Grape*. When Krall launched the new album in Toronto earlier this summer, she performed to pie-dodger applause for an audience at the top of the Senator club and re-enthusiastic cheer from a crowd gathered outside Indigo Books and Music. The first in Indigo came from young music students to grandmother. "Great music music," concluded bicycle industry consultant Rob MacNeil, a friend, shared by Krall's administrator Hugh Duggan, who says he loves Krall's music because it's "bedroom jazz."

None of which is lost as Krall, who realises that her musical may well make some listeners hot and bedridden. "That's

the point of a song like *I've Got You Under My Skin*," she says with a laugh. "I'm a very passionate person and I often feel quite sexual. I grew up in a very loving, affectionate household. That's where my story and I both got it from."

That household consisted of her father, Jess, a chartered accountant, her mother, Adella, an elementary school teacher-librarian, and a younger sister, Michelle. She remains close to them all, visiting them regularly in Nanaimo, where they still live, or talking with them by phone. Michelle, 32, used to live in Toronto, where she was a member of the Royal Canadian



Mounted Police, but she has since moved back to her home town to become a bylaws officer. "We used to laugh about the two Krall names," says Diana. "Well, my. One's a cop and the other has a record."

Along with her family, Krall is surrounded by a close circle of friends. Buzan John Clayton, who Krall has known since she moved to Los Angeles to study in the mid-1980s, has been a member of her trio and remains a friend whose counsel she seeks. "Diana calls me her 911 number," says Clayton. "I still get calls from her, usually in the middle of the night, and get a rundown of whatever challenging thing she's going through at the moment. But Diana's lucky to have such wonderful parents. The apple, as they say, does not fall far from the tree."

Clayton's feelings are echoed by Rosemary Clooney. After the two recorded together in May, she warmly signed photoed Krall's parents to tell them what a good job they had done in raising such a sensitive, level-headed daughter. She even sent



playing piano two nights a week in a local restaurant. At 57, she was a widow (she was the second wife of her first husband, who died in 1980), when she studied for 18 months. In 1985, she was back in Nanaimo, where Brown caught her performing in a local club. He was so impressed that he took her under his wing and suggested that she study with pianist Jimmy Rowles, who once accompanied both Billie Holiday and Peggy Lee, in Los Angeles. It was Rowles, who died in 1996, who first encouraged Krall to make

singing a more prominent part of her act.

Diana's interpretive skills come from sometimes interpreted sources. "My dad has a bunch of videos of Jack Benny which we always used to watch," says Krall, who includes parodies of Buster Keaton and The Marx Brothers among her favourites. "Even though we'd seen them a million times, I'd still laugh like hell whenever I saw them. It's a lesson in timing. Jack Benny's timing was impeccable. It was just a look, but it could be so funny and self-deprecating. You can apply that to anything."

Recently, Krall met Stanley Donen, the director of such classic movie musicals as *Singin' in the Rain*. She recalls that she was able to watch clips of Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire performing and then find out from the director and choreographer how he staged this or that scene. "A lot of what I do is like theatre," says Krall, "interpreting a lyric or conveying something in a minimalist way. Going to ask Stanley questions was like taking a master class in film, which I can apply to my work." Krall has already performed on screen in two episodes of TV's *Madame Placido* and in last year's movie *At First Sight*. And Clint Eastwood directed her new video, *Why Should I Care?*, which Krall had contributed to his most recent movie, *True Crime*.

**No one who knows Krall** or who has followed her career is surprised by her commitment to her craft. From the beginning, she has shown a deep respect for the roots of jazz and a desire to move musicians from earlier generations to especially those from the 1940s and '50s—out to learn from them. In 1994, the owner of Montreal's Justin Time Records who signed Krall and released her first three albums, mentioned the time he introduced the young pianist to Oscar Peterson. "It was in Toronto in 1997, and both she and Oscar were being honoured at *The Jazz Appreciation Awards*," recalls West. "Diana was extremely nervous about it, but she told me simply had to meet him. So I took her over and they chatted for a while. She's been like that with all his heroes—very respectful and very determined to learn from them."

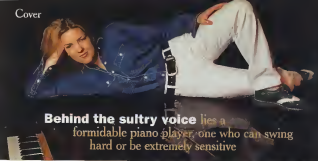
Peterson himself has nothing but praise for Canada's latest jazz star. "Diana dedicated and believes in what she's doing," he says. "She's studied and worked with a lot of well-

Greeting President Bill Clinton after a jazz performance at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. (above) in Toronto, journeying (far left) with Krall's mother to another circle

them a bouquet of assorted flowers. "We're fans of Rosemary's, so we kept the card and left it, conspicuously on the front hall table in case someone happens to come by and see it," says Adella, 57. "Rosemary and Diana were really because like soul mates, and Diana says the relationship reminds her of the relationship she had with her grandmother."

She is referring to Diana's paternal grandmother, Jess, at whose home the family usually gathered for Sunday night dinners. Often, the get-togethers turned into marathon sing-alongs. The whole family could play piano (Diana had started taking lessons at age 5), but it was usually Jess, now 63, who played the restaurant while Jess, who knew the words to every song from pop standards to show tunes and hymns, led the singing.

At the same time, Diana was receiving more formal training. In addition to her years of classical lessons, in her teens she joined her high-school jazz band, led by instructor Bryan Savell. She landed her first professional job at the age of 15,



## Behind the sultry voice lies a formidable piano player, one who can swing hard or be extremely sensitive

known player in the jazz world, many of whom I really respect, and then clearly shows in her work. So I respect her" Krall, meanwhile, calls Parsons a "genius."

Clayton, whose family Krall often stays with in Los Angeles, has watched her talent and skill develop. And he is pleased to see that more people are beginning to see that behind Krall's sultry, overly seductive voice lies a formidable piano player. "Diana can swing hard, which audiences are finally coming to recognize, but she's also an extremely sensitive and delicate piano player and singer," says Clayton. "People have quite nicely blended her to a young female version of Nat Cole in that she can accompany herself with such aplomb while singing. That's still a pretty rare thing. She's an honest-to-goodness jazz player who's doing great things for jazz."

Nevertheless, some jazz aficionados remain unconvinced. Timothy LePore, her producer and Verve chairman, has heard whippersnappers bet swears to die more to her songs than her name. Such charges leave Krall unbothered. "There are parties out there who will dole out harsh awards," he says. "Maybe it's because she doesn't write her own songs, even though Frank Sinatra is doing either. Or maybe it's just jealousy over her success." Adds LePore, who also produced Natalie Cole's best-selling album, 1991's *Unforgettable*: "Right now, Diana is selling like a pop artist in Canada, Japan and France. I expect she'll soon be doing that in America too."

When she's not performing, rehearsing, promoting or doing photo shoots, Krall can often be found in clubs listening to some of her contemporaries. These include singers Cassandra Wilson and Dianne Reeves, as well as pianists Renee Rosnes and arranger/legend Jonico, who came through the same high-school music programs in Nantuxto with Stevie. Otherwise, Krall shops for clothes by her favorite designers (Doris Karon, Prada), cooks books (even though she eats her arrichoken spaghetti up) and fragrances (she, body lotion and the softest, most luxurious bath soaps). When she's in California, she goes horseback riding

on the beach in Carmel (the location of much of the outdoor photography on the booklet to her latest CD) with Elise Eastwood, daughter of jazz-lover Glen—with whom she enjoys the occasional piano jazz.

Although love songs are her specialty, until recently Krall has claimed she was too busy for a romance of her own. But during a recent phone interview with *Maxim*, Krall confessed that she is now seeing Larry Klein, 46, a Los Angeles-based producer-musician who also happens to be Jon Mitchell's ex-husband. "I met him at the Grammys a year ago, then he came to my Hollywood Bowl gig in July and we've been together ever since." Krall sounds giddy. She is also excited about having just found her "dream apartment," and will soon be moving from New York City's Union Square to Greenwich Village.

**Above all, Krall remains a family girl.** Her closeness with her parents has grown deeper since her mother was diagnosed in 1996 with multiple myeloma. Fortunately, a bone marrow transplant at the Vancouver General Hospital was successful and her mother has fully recovered from the cancer. To show their appreciation, the two women helped to organize a benefit concert featuring Diana in February, 1998, that raised more than \$60,000 for the transplant program. And she will play at a second benefit concert scheduled for Oct. 25 in Vancouver. Earlier that year, Diana met up with her parents in Paris when she was there on a promotional tour. Being on the balcony of her hotel room, the three of them opened a bottle of French champagne and toasted their good fortune—both Adella's recovery and Diana's success. "We looked at each other and couldn't believe we were there," recalls Krall, beaming. "I know I'm incredibly lucky. I've got a great family and some amazing friends. On top of that, I get to play jazz." She adds: "I don't believe you have to die or scrape your way anywhere. Sure, you may have to struggle. But mostly, you just have to be really passionate about what you're doing." Passionate and serene. No wonder Diana Krall has set the jazz world on fire. ■



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# A Living, Swinging Legend

By Nicholas Jennings

Oscar Peterson pees up through the glass ceiling of his restaurant and apologizes for the faint noise coming from a stream jet pulsing overhead. "We're right in their flight path," explains Peterson, whose split-level house in Mississauga, Ont., sits due west of Toronto's Pearson International Airport. Happily, the spacious home he shares with his fourth wife, Kathy, and their seven-year-old daughter, Celine, is also smack in the middle of the flight path of many migrating birds. Peterson loves birds. His avocation is filled with artistic renderings of them—some cut in bronze, others shaped in shards of brightly coloured glass. "My favourite is the loon," says Peterson. "I've always loved its call."

This Canada's jazz icon should have an affinity for the country's national bird in almost too perfect. Both share a distinctive sound: the loon's haunting cry is symbolic of the Canadian North, while Peterson's lyrical piano has become synonymous with modern jazz. The loon's image may be etched on every Canadian dollar, but Peterson has graced a U.S. postage stamp, performed on stage across five continents and recorded more than 200 albums over the course of six decades. During that time, the Montreal-born musician has received 12 honorary degrees, been appointed to the Order of Canada and won dozens of awards, including eight Grammys, a Jazz and an induction into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame alongside the likes of Gilles Goulet and Joni Mitchell. "Quite simply, the man is a legend," says Bill King, publisher of *The Jazz Report*, a Canadian magazine that chronicles the international scene. "If Duke Ellington is the figure queen of jazz, then Oscar's the reigning king."

One of the last surviving giants of the jazz age, Peterson—who just turned 74—shows no signs of letting up. Although arthritis and a stroke six years ago have slowed him down, he continues to record, perform and earn international acclaim. This year, the pianist released *A Summer Night in Montreal*, an elegant recording of old and new material. He has also just completed an instructional CD-ROM, featuring performance tips and illustrations on how he played the music. And next spring, Peterson and his quartet are scheduled to premiere a new work—a piece the Canadian government has commissioned for Canada Music 2000, an millennium project—on Toronto's Bay Thersford Hall. (He recently cancelled one of this month's proposed Swing Magic Tour with a big band on the grounds that the issue of artistic control had not been resolved with the show's producers.) In October, he flew to Japan to receive the prestigious Premia Impetore award, which recognizes



achievements in art forms not addressed by the Nobel Prize.

The reminders of Peterson's pre-eminence come at a time when the music world has embraced swing as both a dance music and a fashion trend. But Peterson dismisses the music's current popularity as pop pretension. "They figure that putting on a popsize hat and a double-breasted suit and holding a tensor saxophone makes them a swing group, which it doesn't," he says with a smile. "What does make a swing group?" "History," says Peterson succinctly. Asked to elaborate, he adds: "I think you should have some kind of history behind you, some sort of pedigree."

The man knows of what he speaks. Peterson entered the jazz world during the 1940s—the so-called Swing Era, when big bands led by Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman flourished. And swing, the rhythmic propulsion and flowing beat that distinguishes a lively jazz performance, has been an inherent part of his piano style from the beginning. "Most pianists don't swing because they don't believe the instrument can be swung that hard," Peterson told author Gene Lees in his 1988 biography, *The Way to Swing*. It still marks him to this day. "The piano is a very introspective instrument, but it can also be very aggressive," Peterson says. "If you don't believe what the instrument can do, what you impart to the audience is that disbelief." Errol Garner swung hard, so did Teddy Wilson, Nat Cole and on and on down the line. It's an attitude you have to take on.

Peterson acquired that confidence at an early age. Blessed

with perfect pitch, he began learning to play classical piano from his older sister, Daisy (who also taught Montreal pianist Oliver Jones), and later from noted Hungarian pianist Paul de Marly. At 14, he won a CBC national radio competition and soon began making regular appearances on the airwaves. After performing with the Jubilee Halcres Orchestra, Peterson formed his own trio, and by the mid-1940s, landed a recording contract with RCA Victor Canada. But it was his father, Daniel, a partner for the Canadian Pacific Railway, whom Peterson credits with instilling in him the will to succeed. Recalls Peterson, "He told me, 'If you're going to go out there and be a piano player, don't just be another one. Be the best.' He always had the belief in me, for which I'm grateful."

## One of the last surviving giants of the jazz age, pianist Oscar Peterson shows no signs of letting up

But his father was also a strict disciplinarian, who never let his son take his eyes off his head. Once, when it did, he played him a record by jazz giant Art Tatum and Oscar became so discouraged that he quit piano for two months. Adopting bebop as his ideal, Peterson excelled as he mastered a fluid keyboard style and developed a fluency in his solos that soon became the talk of the jazz world. Those who came to hear him with his trio at Montreal's Alhambra Lounge included the likes of Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald and, on one fateful night in 1949, an American jazz impresario named Norman Granz. He was so impressed with Peterson's talent that he promptly took the young pianist to New York City as a surprise guest on his Jazz at the Philharmonic program at Carnegie Hall. Although the show featured Charlie Parker, Leroy Young and Coleman Hawkins, the 24-year-old Peterson "stepped the concert dead cold in its tracks," reported *Dance Alert* magazine, with the pianist displaying "a facility

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# A grim end to defiance

In June, 1998, *Montreal's* *La Presse* MP Big Bear considered a private member's bill to pardon Louis Riel for his role in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. The bill would also declare Riel to be a Father of Confederation for helping to create the province of Manitoba in 1870. Polls show that a majority of Canadians support three museums. But in the newly published *Indian Bill: The Last Great Days of the Plains Cree and the Blackfoot Confederacy*, Mackenzie's *Senior Writer* *Elroy Jacobs* reports that the prosecution with Riel has overshadowed other issues.

One of them was him, in the aftermath of the rebellion, the Canadian government used the criminal justice system to crush the last vestige of Cree resistance by surrendering their ancestral lands. In this excerpt, Jacobs recounts the long forgotten conviction and mass hanging of eight Indians on Nov. 27, 1885, at Fort Battleford, in what is now Saskatchewan.

**A weak Crown case against Cree Chief Big Bear** on trial for leading a rebellion in Regina, aside no difference to the justice. They deliberated for 15 minutes before returning with a verdict of guilty. Two weeks later, Judge Hugh Richardson sentenced Big Bear to imprisonment in the penitentiary at Stony Mountain for three years.

Mourning police officers then filled the dock with 17 other native prisoners awaiting sentencing. Most were members of Big Bear's band and their trials had been a travesty. At one point, exasperated defence lawyer Berney Robertson told the court: "Since the conviction of Big Bear, I have felt that it is almost a

hopeless task to obtain from a jury in Regina a fair consideration of the case of an Indian. It has seemed to me the only necessary to say in this town to a jury that it is an Indian, and we will put him in the dock to correct him."

The sentencing of Big Bear and the 17 other men to prison terms of varying lengths brought to an end the Regina Indian trials. These legal proceedings against 25 natives in Battleford



Big Bear just before his trial, just before death sentence

were just beginning. Judge Charles Rouleau presided over the trials. Most of them lasted only a few minutes. The Indians appeared without defence lawyers and pleaded guilty.

Big Bear's war chief, Wandering Spirit, appeared first. He pleaded guilty to the murder of an Indian agent, Thomas Quinn. Rouleau then imposed the penalty: "The sentence of the court is that you, Wandering Spirit, be taken to the stockfold and there be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and may God have mercy on your soul."

Before the day was over, Rouleau had sentenced seven others. Four Sky Thunder got 14 years for burning a Catholic Church. Toussaint Calfing Bull and Little Wolf each got 10 years' hard labour for arson. The Ideal and Old Man were convicted of house theft and sentenced to six-year terms. God's Ours got four years for the same offence because his account, the Rev. Charles Quinney, spoke well of him. And Little Runner also received four years for stealing a horse.

All told, 11 men received death sentences and one got 20 years for murdering a priest. A few days before the executions, the government granted reprieves to three prisoners and commuted their sentences to life imprisonment. The condemned men spent their last days seated on the floor of the guardhouse at Fort Battleford, blankets draped over their shoulders, balls and chains shackled to their ankles. They could hear the thud of the wooden building's floorboards as the gallows—20 feet long, eight feet wide and 10 feet high.

On Nov. 26, Sgt. Leif Crover, the mounted police commander at Battleford, allowed newspapermen F. G. Laue and trader William Cameron to observe the prisoners. They were instantly interested in Wandering Spirit, the once flamboyant and fearless war chief who now lay weired and



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## The courts helped crush Cree resistance

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## 'The executions ought to convince the Red Man the White Man now governs'

*Big Bear (middle) and fellow Cree trading furs in 1884; a post-rebellion delegation of Blackfoot leaders in Ottawa (below), 1890s*

bothering him: the thought of dying and having to make the long journey to the Sand Hills with a ball and chain attached to one ankle. When he learned that the shackle would be removed, he was relieved. "Then I will die satisfied," Wandering Spirit said. "I may not be able to die in the morning, so now I say again to you all—Goodbye. Hovv. Aqwawaw."

The executions were set to take place at 8 a.m., and the condemned men were up early. Outside, it was cold and a sharp wind blew. The prisoners ate their last meal. They said their goodbyes. And they bowed their heads. Mounted police officers cut their hair, removed the shackles and fired each man with a black veil. Then the men began to sing. Death chants filled the air as they prepared to march across the square from the guardhouse to the gallows.

One hundred and fifty mounted police stood at attention around three sides of the square. Dozens of Cree and Stoney people gathered on the grass below the gallows where eight nooses swung in the wind. Natives were no longer welcome around Banffville. But this was a special occasion. They had been summoned from the reserves around the town to witness the deaths of their brethren.

The square was utterly silent as the prisoners marched out of the guardhouse, each with a mounted police officer to the right and left. One by one, they removed the veils and took their place. The executioner, Robert Hodson, bowed their hands and feet. The short, chubby Hodson had been a prisoner of Wandering Spirit's band and an object of ridicule. Now, he would be sending his tormentors to their deaths.

Hodson worked quickly as the condemned men sang. He pulled the veils over each man's head. He tightened each noose. He drew the bolt. "There was a sharp sound of gunning, and the trap dropped and eight bodies shot through it," Cameron later wrote. "The bodies were dropped into rough wooden boxes and buried in a common grave on the hillside below the police barracks. Thus closed the last tragic event in the occurrences of the year 1885."

The hangings brought to an end a much larger conflict: the Canadian government's long fight to assert its control over the North-West, the vast territory it had acquired from the Hudson Bay Co. in the winter of 1869-1870. As Sir John A. Macdonald put it in a letter to the Indian Commissioner Edgar Dewdney: "The executions... ought to convince the Red Man that the White Man now governs."



Charles Gordon

## A small price to pay

Sometimes we are so busy being consumers that we are in danger of forgetting how to be citizens. It is all too obvious how many locally owned Canadian businesses, large and small, have been forced into oblivion by consumerism driving to the limit the new discount operation. Empty storefronts that once held independent businesses clutter the downtowns, while big-box supermarkets, many of them foreign-owned, thrive on the outskirts of town. Not many of us are bothered by it, at least not yet. As Envois began its slide into the retail graveyard, the radio news featured interviews with shoppers picking over the stock for bargains. Their common emotion was annoyance—that the dying store's prices had not been slashed enough.

A suspicious and intensely vigilant bunch of consumers we are, ready to defend to the death our right to a bargain. You will know, if you have travelled abroad, how sharp our food is, compared with the rest of the world. Yet farmers, notorious complainers though they may be, each hold a candle to consumers, when the price of bread or milk inches up a notch.

You will remember, as some Canadians begin to mutter about being forced to pay 15 cents a month for the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, that the most intense debate of the past decade was over the cost of new cable TV channels, and the way we were billed for them. Such a level of wrath was never reached in the halls of the March Lake debates. And you may recall, if you have been politically conscious for a couple of generations, that it was proposed once as gasoline, another commodity for which we pay miserly little, that funded the short-lived Joe Clark government in the 1980 election.

It is that gift-gives-costs-a-fee for the survival of a plot to cut black cassette tapes and compact discs. The art of the tape is extremely worthy—to support Canadian songwriters and recording artists. The music for the tape is eminently accessible—the work of those artists is being distributed without compensation by those who duplicate it. The agency of the situation grows—suddenly, the availability of so-called CD-burners makes it possible for high-quality copies of CDs to be made, and conceivably sold. Without the people responsible for the music receiving a share, their work can be recorded and distributed for free and/or profit.

Without the protection of patent law, authors and musicians would never prosper, and without the protection of copyright, artists cannot support themselves by their work.

Charles Gordon is a columnist with The Ottawa Citizen.

But the advance of technology makes it all too easy for that copyright to be lifted. And the impact of the CD-burner may be less than that of the Internet, over which music can be consumed and disseminated.

Hence the proposed levy, which is already in place in 25 countries, mostly in Europe. The notion should not be entirely foreign to us. We already have Public Lending Right, a system put into place in 1986 to compensate authors for the circulation of their books by public libraries. The idea was not to stop the circulation, nor was it to force library members to pay fines if, a fund was established, out of which authors received a payment that, while not substantial for most, at least demonstrated the principle that something was owed them for their work.

Since it is impossible to stop home taping, the protection has been made legal and a levy on the new material—this is, black cassettes and CDs—is used to grant a fund to pay artists whose work is taken. Hearings of the Canadian Copyright Board are going on now, and it is too soon to know all the details of the distribution of these revenues, but it is reasonable to hope that not all of the money will go into the hands of those artists who are already well rewarded for their efforts. Some of it should go to support new artists and struggling older ones, just as a portion of cable TV revenues goes into new program development.

Practically, in this sensitive age, there is opposition. Some of the arguments are easy to consider, such as the one that not everyone who buys black cassettes is using them to tape music. Some buyers are taping music and without their tape, and it is also true that some of the people who buy alcoholic beverages are using them for cooking rather than drinking. They will pay the tax. Further, proposals have been made by the composers and publishers that would allow exceptions for certain affected groups. Still, we are already hearing a chorus that all are commonly heard in this country: if the levy on black cassette goes ahead, consumers will charge across the border in droves and stock up there.

Against that is a poll cited by the music industry and quoted in *The Globe and Mail*. It says 69 per cent of Canadian adults adding a levy of as much as \$1.50 to the average \$3 cost of a blank tape would be fair. It would be, too, considering the value of that tape will remain after it has been used. Beyond that question of economic fairness is another one: even in this consumer age, nothing is free, nor should it be. If we want to have our own musicians, composers and recording artists, we must be prepared to pay them.



executed. He remained there a long time, but finally spoke. "Four years ago, we were camped on the Missouri River in the Long Knives' land," he said, referring to the United States. "Big Bear was there. I mean, Four Sky Thunder and other chiefs of the band. Red was there, ending whisky in the Indians. He got us liquor and said he would make war on this country. He asked us to join him in robbing out the Canadians. The government had round him badly. He would demand much money from them. If they would not give, he would spill blood, plenty of Canadian blood."

"Last fall, Red sent word to us that when the leaves came out the half-breeds would rise and kill all the whites. The Long Knives would come. They would buy the land, pay the Indians plenty of money for it, and afterwards trade, too, and helped the country of Canadians. And at Neak, a half-breed, told me he had in his pocket a letter from his cousin, Red, telling him to stay with Big Bear's band and he would be safe. We would never be tried for what we did. Anyway," he said, "the Canadians can't beat us."

Wandering Spirit said Cameron there was only one thing



# Atom's Journey

By Brian D. Johnson

**Lunch with Atom Egoyan.** He arrives late, on the run in a day of interviews. This is Toronto, his home town, but he might as well be on tour. His personal pubicist hovers close by; a driver waits at the curb outside the restaurant. Affable and full of energy, Egoyan takes a seat in the corner booth, a dark wood enclosure with a thick curtain that can be drawn for privacy. Should it be open or closed? "Closed," Egoyan suggests. The curtain is drawn and suddenly the booth feels strangely private. Like a deeper compartment on a train. It is the kind of place where secrets could be revealed, with the railroad fantasy that you would expect to find... in an Atom Egoyan film. The only question is, how to catch the writer's eye?

It is the sort of dilemma Egoyan can appreciate. He has built a career out of creating costly hermetic worlds on film,

hesitant to discuss until now. "It was a really painful adolescent experience," he says. "The way in which people can camouflage things is absolutely vital to my experience of growing up."

Born in Calio of Armenian parents, Egoyan immigrated to Victoria with his family at the age of 3. Now 39, he is the most accomplished Canadian director of his generation. With eight features to his credit, he has received two Oscar nominations, five Genies, four prizes from Cannes, five honorary degrees and a French knighthood. He lives in Toronto with his Armenian wife, Beirut-born Arlene Kharpouz, and their five-year-old son, Achille. Kharpouz, who has appeared in all his films, is now a rising star in her own right (page 58). And their creative marriage has become the quintessential Canadian immigrant success story, an artistic romance of two outsiders working their way from the margins to the heart of the cultural elite.

The name Atom Egoyan, meanwhile, has become synonymous with the peculiar identity of Canadian cinema, which has acquired a reputation for incoherence and sexual pathology. But despite his reputation for chilly obsessions, there is a deeply personal sense of compassion that runs through all of Egoyan's films, a fixation on the secrets and lies buried at the core of the nuclear family. From *Family Viewing* (1987) to *The Sweet Hereafter* (1997), Egoyan returns again and again to tales of bereft parents and lost children, stories in which sexuality keeps striking uncomfortably close to home.

Anyone looking at Egoyan's recent movies cannot help but notice a disturbing pattern. In 1994's *Exotica*, a father mourns the violent death of his daughter by ritually dancing on a young stripper contorted as a schoolgirl. In *The Sweet Hereafter*, a father comes on an incestuous affair with his adolescent daughter. And now in *Family Viewing*, a pregnant teenager slides into the clutches of a paternal predator. Three movies. Three

Canada's celebrated director reveals the rite of passage behind his cinematic obsessions

dramas that are ripe with undecoded messages and employ none of the usual tricks to catch the eye of the audience. His latest movie, *Family Viewing*—which opens the Toronto International Film Festival (Sept. 9 to 18) this week—tells the same story of a grade-school killer (Bob Hoskins) closing in on an Irish girl (Blaine Cassidy) adrift in the industrial hellfire of England. There is not a single scene of violence, but there is an overwhelming sense of violence.

Egoyan's films are all about violations of innocence and trust. And, as he eventually reveals our lunch, the theme is rooted in a trauma from his own teenage years that he has been re-



Egoyan: from the margins to the heart of the cultural elite

# As repression builds in *Felicia's Journey*, 'the camera betrays the feelings of the person behind it at all moments'

man of father figures obsessed with teenage girls. It is one thing for a director to keep coming back to the same theme—Catholic repression—for Martin Scorsese, technological innovation for David Cronenberg—but the pattern in Egoyan's work is so specific, so personal and ultimately so creepy, it raises the question: What is at the bottom of it?

The obsession goes back to an experience Egoyan had as a teenager growing up in Victoria, which he has finally agreed to talk about. "There was a young woman," he says, "whom I shared from a very young age, and who was inaccessible to me for the longest time. Later on, it was revealed that there was an abusive relationship with her father. All the class were there. But a woman's society at that point that could read them or respond to them, and I felt kind of helpless about it. So either

of his own romantic interests. "When the father realized I was serious about her," he says, "I had to make promises to him which I ultimately couldn't keep—in terms of keeping my relationship with his daughter platonic. It was a very strange time, because I was living a double life." Complicating things even further is the fact that, for the girl, the incest had an element of romantic illusion. "And that's what *The Sweet Hereafter* explored," explains Egoyan. "What is the experience of incest on the victim when it's not the obvious carnal or violent power, but this blurring of love?"

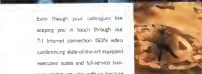
Egoyan says that he himself had an "ideal upbringing." His parents, Joseph and Shaula, who met at art school in Egypt, are both painters. His mother, now 65, recently mounted her first solo exhibition in Victoria. And when Aaron was 10, he remembers going to the provincial museum for a show of his father's work called *Birds*—"which was a very attractive title to the population of Victoria, and they realized these were carcasses of dead birds. My father would suspend dead birds around the house. It was a little bit gothic."

His parents, who supported their art by running a small furniture store, "gave me great work models as to what an artist does," adds Egoyan, who worked in the store from a young age. "I became very aware of the mechanics of operating a small business. That gave me a very practical sense of how to manage a production, and how to be modest. And I became very aware of the making of art, and the appreciation of art. I was around it all the time. A lot of my father's friends were artists. And my sister [Jill Egoyan] is a concert pianist doing very unusual music."

But as an Armenian child trying to assimilate, Aaron endured a degree of culture shock. He did not speak English when he first went to school. "I remember very clearly episodes where my parents had to explain to the teacher, 'If he says this it means he has to go to the bathroom, and if he says that, it means he's hungry.' I remember saying to a teacher in Armenian, 'Ten hungry' and then being shown to the bathroom."

Egoyan developed a love for the absurd at an early age, crafting teenage plays in the spirit of Lorca, Beckett and Pirandello, then short films as an undergraduate at the University of Toronto. By the time he made his first feature, *Nick of Time* (1984), at the age of 23, he says he had become "really aware of the fact that identity is possibly a construct."

Much of Egoyan's work dwells on blurred identity, a Canadian "construct" if ever there was one. In *Nick of Time*—which opens with a taxi taken from a cinema on an airport baggage carousel—a young man joins an American family in Toronto



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Peter McDermott, *Felicia's Journey* and Egoyan at the art in Ireland, preliminary

than address it. I went into denial over it, like everybody else."

The father's behavior left Egoyan with a lingering lesson in life and art. "I suppose the thing that confused it most was anything," he says, "is that he himself was an artist, and it was so obvious what was going on, from the work he was doing and presenting publicly and the way he was behaving. But no one could actually talk about it. There was this incredible shield of secrecy. And I was completely, madly in love with her. From about 15 to 18. And it wasn't until the last year when it became more..." Egoyan pauses. "I don't want to say it, because it's her story," he says. "The pain that she went through was a lot more than mine. I was an observer."

Egoyan never talked to the father about the incest, but ended up in awkward negotiations with him about the terms

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Shirley Egoyan, Kharqian and Gibson attending their premiere at Cannes International reputation

Egoyan's empathy for Hilditch popped into shoving focus during the filming. Hilditch fell sick on the day he was to reprise the redemptive scenes of the victim taking to Hilditch in his car. So Egoyan played the father's role, which is largely off-camera. "I put on his gloves, I put on his coat, and I had to go through a real regimen of each of these women as a one," the director recalls. Hilditch's role as the dialogue

by pretending to be a long-lost son. In *Family Viewing*, a young man learns that his father is creating the family's home videos by shooting sex scenes with his new wife. A series of shadowy father figures begin to emerge in Egoyan's films—the sadistic insurance man in *The Adjuster*, the grieving accountant in *Exotica*, the manipulative lawyer in *The Sweet Hereafter*. But none are as dark as Hilditch, the mild-mannered musician played by Hudson in *Felicia's Journey*.

Based on the 1994 novel by Irish author William Trevor, it is a quiet drama that brings two characters together with quiet, claustrophobic intensity. Felicia is a naive 17-year-old from rural Ireland who has come to the English city of Birmingham searching for Johnny, the lover who has left her pregnant. Lost, alone and unable to find him, she is befriended by Hilditch, a quiet catering manager who has made a career picture of collecting and disposing of homeless girls.

Living alone in the gloomy house where he grew up, Hilditch seems locked in a time warp. He spends his nights preparing elaborate meals while watching black-and-white videos of a 1950s cooking show hosted by his dead mother. Played by Kharqian, she is a comically flamboyant character with a French accent who cruelly exploits her son. Hilditch is a chubby boy on camera. Hilditch's video archive also includes tapes of his victims, recorded with a camera hidden in his Morris Minor. Egoyan has been developing the idea of forbidden video archives ever since *Family Viewing*. And by grafting it onto Trevor's novel, along with the baroque horror of the cooking show, he has placed a surreal signature on an essentially realistic drama.

Repression builds in *Felicia's Journey* with the claustrophobic weight of English weather. Cutting between past and present, Egoyan shifts from Ireland's green fields to Britain's bleak industrial landscape, and from the sharp intolerance of Felicia's Irish-Catholic father to the unadorned comfort of her English benefactor. The movie is an understated thriller, bereft of catharsis. And as Egoyan slowly tightens the noose of suspense (which turns out to be a dystopian), the walking, predatory camera seems more symptomatic to the father than to his prey. "The camera betrays the feelings of the person behind it at all moments," Egoyan explains. "I was far more fascinated in Hilditch than in Felicia. The story of a young woman looking for the father of her child is not as interesting to me, dramatically, as the moment who is responsible for evils beyond description, yet doesn't seem aware of it."

does not appear in the film. "They were you are than grab one of the women, it's my aim," says Egoyan. "When I realized in the process it was so much of my job as about trying to molest people. The darkest side of what we do as directors is quite people do something they wouldn't do otherwise—and what is Hilditch if not a director?"

So what does the director's wife think of all this, a husband who kisses his mother to that of a serial killer? "There is a hint of intense contradiction in Atom," says Kharqian. "There is one side of him that is very cynical and obsessed with control. He can be very dark and arrogant. But his victim is humanistic. He is obsessed with the human condition, with how innocence can be abused and how a person is redeemed."

Kharqian is her husband's fierce supporter and most vigilant critic. "She can be brutal with him," says their friend, actor-director Don McKillop. "She challenges him all the time." Kharqian is a especially wary of commercial temptations that came his way. In 1994, when Hollywood was courting him with an offer to make an erotic thriller called *Dead Sleep*, Egoyan says his wife "saw me at the source."

With *Felicia's Journey*, Egoyan declined to make the lead of illusion. "In the end, Egoyan declined to make the film because he wanted to see Stuart Saunders and the studio missed her choice for a limited 'A-list' of younger, more beautiful men. "We really like Michael when Stuart went on to win the Oscar for *Dead Man Walking*," adds the director.

With *Felicia's Journey*, Egoyan explores the thriller genre for the first time, one of the most he best to submit it. And the exceptionally sensitive performance that he drew from Hudson and Cassidy show a huge progression from the eerily detached acting in his early films. *Felicia's Journey* also the first movie he has not produced himself—he made it for Mel Gibson's company, Line Entertainment International. And it is the fact he has shot entirely outside his own country (initially, he hoped to set in Canada, and make the heroine a housewife/god from Quebec travelling to British Columbia, but Trevor insured the book's Irish themes were integral to the story).

*Felicia's Journey* made a watershed. For 10 years, ever since *Speaking Parts*, Egoyan has launched his movies at the Cannes Film Festival. And with each outing, his international profile has risen a notch, peaking with *The Sweet Hereafter*, which

'There is a man of immense contradiction in Atom'

won three prizes in Cannes and was nominated for two Oscars. Then last May, he showed up with *Frida* and came home empty-handed. It was a bit of a shock, given that Egoyan's humanist realism, David Cronenberg, headed the jury that enabled the film—especially since it was an open secret that, when Egoyan was on the jury in 1996, he fought to create a special prize for Cronenberg's *Cook*.

According to McKello, who is friends with both Egoyan and Cronenberg, "Anton took it very personally. It's not because we have a very close-knit, supportive film community. And Anton has always really admired David." Egoyan him-

speaking, he says they have exchanged phone messages. "As far as I'm concerned, there is no rift between me and Anton."

As Canada's leading writer-directors, who both create severely idiosyncratic films, Egoyan and Cronenberg may seem joined at the hip in the public eye. But their visions are actually different. And by now, as a directoral one-man band, Egoyan has reached beyond his memoir shadow. Working flat-out for the past three years, he has made two features, staged three operas (*Salome*, *Die Cid*, *Experiments*) and his own *Altered States*, and created a delightful short film, *Swiss Miss*. Meanwhile, for a TV series devoted to culture (Yo Yo Me), meanwhile, as he explores his passion for music, there is a mounting sense of operatic urgency to his work. As *Frida* journey, Michael Dornan's intense sound track drives the drama with martial force.

Now, Egoyan is ready for a moment of silence. "It's been a bit of what I call 'the silence,'" he says. "I'd like to see what happens if I just concentrate on something I'm doing. The silence." He will get his chance that fall, with *Arbitrage* at school and his wife onstage in Japan and France for three months. After making two movies from novels, he keeps getting asked to do literary adaptations—the past earned down an offer from *Iron* to adapt D. M. Thomas's *The White Horse*—and soon wants to lock him into a multi-episode deal. But the director is keeping his options open. And he has embarked on an original screenplay, which he will only say has "elements of a historical epic."

Egoyan likes a certain romance with the past in making *Frida*, which is, after all, an ode to the Old World. The movie is set in the present, but as he points out, the characters are trapped in the past, "so it feels like a period film." In a sense, all Egoyan's pictures feel like period films, stories of rituals and emotions. They also feel like foreign films, in a uniquely Canadian way—perhaps from an artist whose journey keeps circling back to the essential immigrant of home. ■

## A sense of operatic urgency drives Egoyan's work

Sean McCann, Sarah Polley  
in *The Sweet Hereafter* (above)

comes to discuss what he calls "a really loaded issue." But, echoing widespread outrage, he says he was mystified that the Cannes acting prizes all went to non-actors. "That's a dogmatism to the decision," he says. "The jury was trying to make a statement. And given that there were professional actors on that jury, I don't know what was going through their heads." Khurjian is more vociferous, calling Cronenberg and his jury "stupid" and "self-indulgent."

Cronenberg pleads innocence. "I just reacted to the performance that affected me," he says. "It's happened that it looked like a statement." Asked if he and Egoyan are still

## The cream of the film festival crop

**From Madonna's film critic Brian D. Johnson, a partial list of hot movies in stretch for at the Toronto International Film Festival (Sept. 9 to 18):**

**Human Traffic:** Transporting as childhood, but on canvas, not stretch. **Beetle:** the make-over girl that snagged the Palme d'Or in Cannes. **The Cider House Rules:** Lisa Haddad's flow John Irving's novel. **American Beauty:** Kevin Spacey and Annette Bening in suburban hell. **House of Wax:** Oscar-worthy Jake

Anton, from Patricia Rozema. **Anywhere but Home:** Simon Surinon plays Natalia Portman's mother.

**Swiss and Lowdown:** Woody Allen directs Sean Penn in a jazz against. **Salvatore:** Matt Damon's star turn. **Wendover:** Molly Parker shines in a British ensemble.

**Le beau travail:** adrift in Asia with the French Foreign Legion. **Romance and Le monde par:** the festival's most sensually explicit film.

**The War Zone:** a graphic insect drama, directed by actor Tim Roth. **Journeys in the Sun:** a drama of love and state repression in Turkey. **Get Forever in My Mind:** love and ancient protest in Italy. **Girlhood:** love 'n' cool war in Beirut.

**Beats:** Glenn Close-Jessie Goldstein and Wim Wenders talk on canvas. **Shadow Forest:** in the rag with a female kidnapping campaign. **The Specialist:** the trial of New entertainer Adolf Eichmann. **How to Succeed in 1900:** an archival reflection on the rapacious westward. **Mr. Death:** a documentary portrait of an executioner, by Eyal Meron.

# Arsinée unveiled

An electric actress forges a career outside her husband's films

**Her career and her romance** began simultaneously. In 1983, Arsinée Khurjian was married to a Lebanese dental student when Anton Egoyan walked into her life. They were both Armenian immigrants. He was an unknown film-maker from Toronto, in Montreal to cast a part in his first movie, she was an actress rehearsing *The Moslems*, an Armenian. Her husband approached Egoyan and pushed him to audition her—embarrassing his wife to the point that they had a huge fight when they got home. "I'll wait in acting class. I can do it for myself," she remembers telling him. "I don't need you." Later, when Egoyan said to tell Khurjian that he wanted to cast her in *Heart of Kin*, she dodged his calls for 10 days. "I was terrified," she recalls, "scorched off the opportunity—I did not know where it would take me."

It has taken her far. She fell in love on the set, left her husband, moved to Toronto and began a new life. "I had met an artist from my own background," she says. "This was the world I had always dreamt about without knowing it." Khurjian, 41, a now married to Egoyan with a five-year-old son, Arsine, she has appeared in all of his eight movies, mostly supporting roles, playing everything from a phone-sex worker in *Family Viewing* to a strip-club manager in *Exotica*.

On-camera, her personality has often been muted by the bus, unpretentious acting style that was once Egoyan's trademark. But with *Frida*, Khurjian finally gets a part she can sink her teeth into. Playing the deceased mother of a psycho killer (Bob Hoskins), she provides rich comic relief in a series of video flashbacks as Gail, the flamboyant host of a krazy '50s cooking show. Meanwhile, her career has found outlets outside her husband's film. She appeared in two CBC TV mini-series created by actor Kim Friesman—playing his wife in *More Than*, and a mother confronting the legal system in *Pinhole Heart*. This week, she returns from shooting *Michelle*, Herold's *Cold* *Immersion* in Paris with Juliette Binoche. And this fall, Khurjian will spend three months onstage in Tokyo, then Paris, in a French-language production of *Dancing at Lughnasa*. She is also writing a script for herself about opera singer Maria Callas.

In person, Khurjian is larger than life, a vivacious, voluble



Khurjian: "how the balance has shifted"

beauty. It seems unfair that, until now, her husband has kept her electric personality so well-contained on-screen. "But it was never a source of frustration," she says, "because I was exploring different characters." Luckily, Khurjian has been playing a lot of mothers. She attributes much of her forceful personality to her own mother, who died 12 years ago. "She was ikarous, but a very ambitious woman," she says. Her father, an office worker, "was more educated but less curious." Born in Beirut, Khurjian immigrated to Canada at 17 with her parents and sister. She studied languages at Concordia University in Montreal, then earned an MA in political science at the University of Toronto. While Egoyan was still a struggling film-maker, she worked for five years for the Ontario Arts Council. "His career was my priority," she says. "Now that the balance has shifted, it hasn't been as easy. I had my eye. I wanted to be an actor."

She does not always get the sole she wants. In *The Sweet Hereafter* Khurjian sided to play the adolescent moral manager, Rita Wilton, but because Egoyan was loath to film his wife in a sex scene, he gave the role to Alberta Watson. Khurjian ended up playing a funny, grief-stricken sister. But the director had no objections when she appeared fully nude in *Joan My* (1996), by French director Olivier Assayas.

In Egoyan's *Swiss Miss* (1997), a short film in a TV series about culture Yo Yo Me, Khurjian did perform a brief kissing scene with Don McKellan. "It was pretty carefree and Anton and I have known Don for ages," she says. After announcing in the final shot, they stayed in position, as Anton suddenly dis, while a technician recorded the ambient sound. "When the sound person said, 'Cut,' Anton screamed out," recalls Khurjian. "I look at Don and he says, 'Is it about it?' So I go out and Anton says, 'Did you have to stay in that embrace like that?' I said, 'You're doing a kissing scene with Don?' As she tells the story her cellphone rings with another during. "It's Anton," she says, still stunned by him after all these years. "It's telling you, he's very good on camera and calm."

Brian D. Johnson

## Natural remedy

A reindeer herder in a Belarus village southwest of Minsk pours blood from a freshly skinned reindeer antler into a jar containing vodka. The resulting potion is consumed in the belief that it will improve overall health and—like alcohol-free preparations used in other parts of the world—increase male virility. The drink is popular in parts of the nation, which is now walled between Poland and Russia.



## Making mice—and humans?—smarter

In an experiment that raises the prospect of boosting human intelligence, mice with genes that were engineered to increase the flow of a brain chemical scored higher on intelligence tests than ordinary mice. Writing in the journal *Nature*, Princeton University researchers said they altered mouse genes to increase the production of a brain protein involved in the flow of the neurotransmitter NMDA, which is associated with memory and

learning in both mice and humans. Molecular biologist Joe Tsien, who headed the research team, said the experiment pointed to "the possibility that enhancement of learning and memory is not even [a] stable enough genetic engineering." Scientists suggested similar methods might be used to improve failing memories in older people—or even to upgrade inhibited brain function or overcome inherited mental disorders.

## Life in the slow lane is healthier

After conducting a three-year study of driver perceptions, a Toronto physician concluded that drivers who stay in one lane arrive at their destination at about the same time—and without endangering others—as those who switch to what they think is a faster-moving lane. Epidemiologist Dr. Don Redelmeier decided to look into driving habits because of the injuries and deaths caused by car accidents. In the study, published in the journal *Nature*, researchers turned accident responses to videotapes of highway traffic patterns. The benefits of lane-changing "may be an illusion," Redelmeier concluded, "but the risks are always real."

## Gerber pledge

The biotech giant Novartis Inc. plans to stop using genetically engineered corn or soybeans in its Gerber baby food products. Officials of the Summit, N.J.-based firm's North American consumer health division said that although the company believes its existing products are safe, it will replace some current suppliers with producers whose crops are not genetically altered to make them resistant to pests or weed-killing chemicals. In recent months, other baby food manufacturers, including Pittsburgh-based H. J. Heinz Co., have made similar announcements. U.S. and Canadian regulators say there is no evidence that genetically altered food products pose any health risks. But the British Medical Association has expressed concerns about the safety of genetically engineered foods, and consumer concerns in Europe have led to bans on the importing of some North American products.

## Kits recalled

Thousands of emergency kits used to treat severe allergic reactions and used off potentially fatal ticks are being recalled in Canada. Officials of Toronto-based Holliston-Steris Laboratories said they were recalling Ana-Sar emergency treatment kits because they may be less strong and not fully effective. Health Canada said there have been no reports of death resulting from the kits, which are used to treat severe reactions caused by insect stings, foods, poisons and other substances. About 56,800 units were included in the recall, but company officials said many may have already been used, and several thousand had already been returned to pharmacies. The kits contain a disposable syringe, which allergic-reaction victims use to inject the hormone epinephrine. To help patients identify the product that is being recalled, a Health Canada advisory note that the logo of Bayco Inc., which distributed the kits until June, appears on the package.

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## Education

# Giving the learning disabled a head start

New programs groom students for postsecondary life

It is a startling afternoon in Toronto, but the 17 students in Project Advance seem oblivious to the heat. They are the first participants in York University's six-week pilot program designed to prepare high-school students with learning disabilities for college or university and they are reviewing the previous day's test. The subject is concentration and memory techniques, and the results are mixed. Twenty-year-old Andrea Taylor admits she studied the wrong material, while Reagan Humphrey



Humphrey (left), Wilson and McNelis: determination

was sprayed by a panic attack, a reaction to the pressure of tests that has haunted her since high school. "The answers are always there in my head. I just can't get them on paper," says Humphrey, a 19-year-old native of Sudbury, Ont. "I feel like things are closing in on me and I have no control."

Despite appearances, Humphrey and Taylor are accomplished students. Taylor graduated from high school with an A average, even though reading and writing are a chore for her. It took her six years to complete her courses and much longer than her peers to study for examinations. Next week, she will head to Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont., to study business, and Humphrey will start the nursing program at Fanshawe College in London, Ont. They won't be alone. An estimated four per cent of postsecondary students have a diagnosed learning disability. Project Advance and a handful of other institutes are aimed at helping similar students realize their dreams. If successful, the same kind of preparatory programs could be adopted in other

provinces. "The academic pace is short and there is not enough time for students to learn how to learn," says Laurie McNelis, co-ordinator of Project Advance. "We give them a head start."

Project Advance offers students a chance to experience a university environment without the do-or-die pressures of essays or final exams. Instructors teach reasoning skills and techniques to help students study more effectively, take better notes and cope with stress. Students are also taught to use software programs that assist with reading, transcribing notes and essay writing.

In Canada, it is estimated that as many as 4.5 million Canadians—730,000 of whom are school age—have learning disabilities. The transition from the structured schedule of high school to the relative freedom of university is especially tough, says Muri Wilkosky, director of both Project Advance and York's own Learning Disabilities Program. Even if support is available on campus, many begin to lose confidence and drop out. "There is

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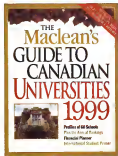
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## Education



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nothing stopping these kids, except inflexibility in the way we teach and the way we measure their mastery of material," says Wilkesley. "We just need to give them a chance to learn in different ways, at a different pace."

This goal is shared by seven other pilot projects funded by the Ontario Learning Opportunities Task Force, established in 1997 to find ways for the students with learning disabilities to make the postsecondary transition more successfully. Thirteen schools and about 400 students are currently involved in the project. They include a bid by the province's three francophone colleges to design special teaching strategies, and a University of Guelph initiative to help professors teaching first-year courses adapt their methods to the learning disabled. In 2002, the task force will recommend programs that could be implemented throughout the province. Based on the early success, the province is already considering exceeding the task force's original \$30-million budget, says Bruce Stephenson, the group's chairwoman and a former Ontario education minister. "Right now, we don't know of any single way that is best for these students," says Stephenson. "We are evaluating and re-evaluating to find what works."

Other provinces are watching the Ontario programs closely. In Alberta, most of the learning-disabled programs are classroom measures, such as individualized tutoring, says Anne Price, executive director of Calgary's Learning Centre, a resource center for the learning disabled. "Ontario's pilot projects are the most formalized in Canada."

For now, most students with learning disabilities will continue to rely on sheer determination, despite the odds against them. "Teachers would say to me, 'Why don't you go get a job—you'll never make it,'" recalls Taylor Wilson, 19, a Project Advance participant who will study electrical science at York this fall. "But I know I could prove them wrong." That kind of persistence is enough to give any one.

Susan McClelland

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## Dalton Camp

# Step right up: see the brain drain

While you were away at the cottage, or camping out, or sight-seeing in Oklahoma, you probably were not paying close attention to Canada's most ex-

isting summer since 1953 when there was a federal election.

During the summer, we lost three of our 10 premiers, two of them in headlines, and a third who jumped, or fell, or was pushed from office. The RCMP are now investigating these unexpected events, partly because they were involved in one of them, the midship in British Columbia, and also because they were working on the Airbus case in Bern, Switzerland. Those smart resources left behind were mobilized to provide Thag Protection at the Phonographic Summit in Monaco. Armed with the usual condiments (peppers, oregano, minced garlic), as well as mace—I mean, *real mace*—Canada's finest protected them from us. It is a curious world.

Even more curious, and so exciting, was Barbara Amiel's spirited piece "In defence of Conrad Black," which appeared in a recent issue of that magazine. The defence piled revelation upon revelation, including intimations that:

Conrad could have been made a member of the House of Lords on this, "if he'd give a healthy donation to a party's political campaign or make sure the *Telegraph* [Conrad's London daily] took such and such a line." But, "he balked at that route."

Conrad intended to sit, in the Lords, as an independent—so the great tradition of Bernard Russell and Yehosh Mendel.

"While the caraway the rice will play, and sometimes larger rodents, Editor-in-Chief Robert Lewis were on vacation and Managing Editor Geoffrey Stevens took over" (and wrote the editorial about Conrad found offensive by Amiel).

the Magna Carta, wrote Amiel in defence of Conrad Black, "did not set out to establish human rights for downtrodden serfs but to clarify the rights and privileges of the most powerful barons against the arbitrary authority of the king."

Well, now Your humble scribe, who would be rigging his forelock if he had one, begs to differ. While admitting that nothing is so damaging to journalism and argument as a refusal of facts, any therapist, Allan Fotheringham, would have a no other way.

Yes, Barbara, there was a Magna Carta for the world, but the same document, according to the British historian Sir Arthur Bryant, CH, also "laid down that no free man should

be imprisoned or disseised, or be by process of law and the just judgments of his equals that he could not be tried on fixed unreasonable) that he

means of livelihood, including the merchant's stock, the craftsman's tools and the peasant's savings, should be free from unreasonable (sic) that merchants should come and go in safety in time of war."

Magna Carta had more than 60 clauses—hence, Magna—and was, Bryant observed, "a rational as well as a feudal document." Without law but out of long experience, I would take Sir Arthur's reading of history before Barbara's, even if, as we all hope, she becomes a Lady to her husband's Lordship in British society.

While away from the watercooler, you may have missed the Great Canadian Brain Drain Controversy, which is not what it sounds like, but a right-wing plot to bore the country to its knees, thus proving the way for peaceful globalization and the unconsented legalization of genetically modified political parties (e.g. *Reflexes United All*). According to an eminent psychologist at Upper Canada College, Canadians should have more reason than ever to feel inferior and belittled on being informed daily by the "rational" dailies that all the bright people have left the country. (This magazine is actually published in Dallas by *Neuroph* utters who have recently fled Alberta.) But in case you arrived home late from your holidays, you should know there is growing awareness of the true cause of the so-called brain drain, that it is the result of massive insecurity among young and middle-aged Canadians who move to the States because they can't stand the competition up here. You know it's true.

You also missed a lot of hockey. Not the games, but a good deal of earnest soul-searching about salaries, TV ratings, violence, looking for the next Gordie, improved dentistry—the real team. When I tell you the summer is over, you'll believe me when, on Sept. 11, the puck will drop on the first exhibition game of the season. That's when you may begin to wonder if you ever left home.

At the moment, however, most of us are glad to be back. Some parents I know are glad to be back if only to stop their kids from growing. Some of them grow a foot in summer, or seed, drought or no drought. This is hard on the clothing budget. So there is always something to be thankful for, including the end of summer.

The hockey season is only hours away, early fall elections coming in Saskatchewan and Manitoba (in no particular order), and the chance to visit local airports on weekends and watch the Brain Drain.

All you need.

Allen Fotheringham is an historian. Dalton Camp is a columnist and commentator who lives in New Brunswick.





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